

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

NEW SERIES.

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NO. 505—VOL. V.

LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1864.

PRICE 3D.—STAMPED, 4D.

THE END OF MULLER.

MÜLLER has been hanged, and by confessing his crime in four plain words has put an end to all speculation as to the possibility of his innocence. But our morning contemporaries, in default of subjects of more pressing interest, are still occupied with the murder of Mr. Briggs and the fate of his murderer.

Müller having confessed, and his punishment, as the law stands, being undeniably just, we do not see what new argument can be derived from his case for the abolition of capital punishment. The feeling of the country does not appear to be in favour of a change, and the jury which, after less than a quarter of an hour's consultation, found Müller guilty of wilful murder, did not give the least hint of a recommendation to mercy. As for the conduct of the mob on the day of execution, it does not seem to have been—and we know from those who were present that it was not—one atom worse than the conduct of a mob of 50,000 persons consisting chiefly of the lower orders usually is. Our taste, if not our morals, has at least improved since the days—not far distant—when ladies of fashion attended executions. At present such exhibitions, either because they take place too far east, or because to delicate minds they are horrible and repulsive, are not witnessed by ladies at all and

by very few gentlemen. The mob, if not wholly composed, is at least strongly flavoured by the presence of the very dregs of society; and such a mob naturally misbehaves itself. It is one of the privileges of an English mob to do so. On the Continent soldiers are present at executions, and the crowd has to keep tolerably quiet, or it knows that it will be cut up and trampled upon by gendarmerie.

The English law in respect to the punishment of death cannot be said to be harsh. All that a man has to do in order to avoid capital punishment is not to commit murder. The condition does not seem a hard one; but if those persons who would reject circumstantial evidence altogether were listened to, the condition would simply be not to commit murder before witnesses. That even now is naturally the aim of every assassin, and, thanks to our system of procedure, an assassin has a better chance of escaping the legitimate consequences of his crime in England than in any country in the world. In England the accused is not, as in other countries, examined, browbeaten, called upon to explain damaging admissions which have been extorted from him under terror, and which perhaps cannot be explained without further admissions still more injurious to him. If the prosecution cannot fairly run him down, it scorns to lay traps for him. It even cautions him, with what to the illegal mind

appears almost superfluous liberality, to avoid such traps as may present themselves in his way, and into which an inexperienced criminal might too readily fall. If a policeman can be shown to have asked an accused person whether he is really guilty of the offence charged against him, he is justly reprimanded, because it is not his province to do anything of the kind; and attempts to bring a prisoner to a premature confession of his guilt, from whatever quarter they may come, seem to be regarded as positive pieces of unfairness.

In England the accused has only the counsel for the prosecution to contend against, with a just Judge and an impartial jury to see fair play. In most foreign countries he has to endeavour to escape from a Juge d'Instruction, or inquisitor, who worries him to death before the final chase begins; from a public prosecutor who makes it a point of honour to catch and do for him if he possibly can; and from a Judge who always backs the public prosecutor, and who generally treats the accused, from the first moment that he has to deal with him, as though he were already convicted. The prisoner may, to be sure, have the jury to some extent on his side; and it is probably owing to the dead set made against him by all the functionaries of the court, including the Judge, that French juries so often accompany their verdicts of murder with recommendations to mercy on the ground of "extenuation."



"THE VILLAGE ARTIST."—(FROM A PICTURE BY H. T. STANLEY.)

ating circumstances." The "extenuating circumstances" often are, not only that nothing has been extenuated, but also that a great deal has been "set down in malice" by the Judge. In France, and also in Germany, a man who may be fairly suspected of having committed a murder, will certainly not get off altogether; while, if he has beyond all doubt committed a murder, but under highly interesting and dramatic circumstances, he may still hope to escape with his life. In England, however, in the great majority of murder cases, it is literally a question of "neck or nothing" with the accused. Either he is hanged, like Müller, or he goes free.

The German Legal Protection Society seems, then, to us, to have had no cause of justification for resorting to the violent language which it thought fit to employ in pleading the cause of an assassin who had been fairly and legally convicted. The society must have been aware that, in this country, persons accused of murder are not condemned unless the crime be proved against them very clearly and under circumstances comparatively favourable to their escape. In any part of Germany Müller would have been found guilty on far less conclusive evidence than that which was actually brought against him. He would have been asked how he came to have in his possession the watch and chain known to belong to Mr. Briggs. He would have been forced to answer to avoid a condemnation as a contumacious person, and, answering, would have told a falsehood; which falsehood, once established, would have given the Judge the opportunity of pressing him until of necessity he would have told more falsehoods, or, to his still greater injury, would in his confusion have admitted a portion of the truth.

But a German Legal Protection Society would not be allowed to exist in Germany, or, at all events, would not be allowed to meddle, directly or indirectly, by its advice, or in any other manner, with the administration of the law. As the licentious character of the disloyal portion of the Irish press proves, at least, that in Ireland the press is free, so the mere fact of a German Legal Protection Society establishing itself here and performing its self-imposed functions in the most offensive manner without meeting even with a rebuke, shows before all things that German subjects require no special protection before the English law; that there is no bad feeling against them, and that every one wishes them to profit to the utmost by the fairness and liberality of a system unknown to them at home. A Hungarian Legal Protection Society in Pesth, a Polish Legal Protection Society in Posen and in Cracow, might do some good—only they would not be tolerated. In England, however, a legal protection society for foreigners, of no matter what nation, is a superfluity.

THE VILLAGE PAINTER.

It may be that the artist who writes in graceful forms his story upon canvas must, like the poet, be born, and that he cannot be made by any amount of instruction, study, or enthusiasm. Whether this be so or not, it is quite certain that scores of aspirants to the painter's art are doomed to find their hopes unfulfilled, and must be contented to remain in a very humble station, following lovingly, but with only small pretensions, the profession they have chosen.

Others besides Dick Tinto have come down from contemplations of historic scenery and the claims of high art to paint a signboard for the landlord of the village inn; and they have been the happiest who, finding that their score could best be paid this way, have submitted with a good grace, and preferred to paint signs well and honestly instead of wearing out their own lives and the patience of their friends in an ineffectual effort to daub canvas into the similitude of great pictures.

It must not be forgotten, however, that much is to be attained by hard work and conscientious study; and we are not quite sure whether in the picture from which our Engraving is taken, "The Village Painter" has mistaken his vocation in endeavouring to paint from such a dainty model, or whether his subject (at present beyond the reach of his skill) is altogether out of reach of his genius when practice and application shall have matured it.

Very wofully now he contemplates the hideous lineaments which are such a foul libel on the fresh face which looks at its "likeness" in such wistful astonishment from behind his chair—at the ungainly figure which has no resemblance to the supple, graceful form of her who has been sitting there quietly knitting, not without an anxious expectation that she shall be just a little flattered by the admiring artist who, surely, is also her lover—at the strangely hideous awkwardness of that quaint Bavarian costume, which gives such a half-innocent, half-coquettish, but wholly sweet expression to the pretty face, the fair, rounded arms, and the dainty waist. Yes, it is strange! Every article of ornamental attire is faithfully rendered; and yet how the hat, the sleeves, the very feathery sprays of ornament have come out with a dull solid ugliness suggestive of red elbows, chilblains, and a perpetual cold in the head!

It is a painful study which at this moment engrosses the village painter. Will such freedom ever come to the hand, and quick appreciation to the eye, as will enable him to fix this graceful beauty upon the canvas, and elevate him above mere mechanical daubing upon wooden boards? Shall he dash the miserable failure to pieces, or keep it as a warning to teach him what he is to avoid and how much he has to learn? Can he any way alter it to make it into a likeness? Never. He can answer the last readily enough. He may alter the position of the hat and set it on "nine bauble square;" he may repaint the face and bring down the shoulders; but nothing can ever make a good picture of it. Only with a quick inspiration and a free, gentle, practised hand can the village beauty be worthily represented.

To come back again to the picture itself, it remains for us to state that this picture of a picture is the work of an English artist studying in Munich.

EXECUTION AND CONFESSION OF MULLER.—Franz Müller was hanged on Monday morning in front of Newgate, Sir George Grey having declined to interfere with the course of law. There was a great crowd to witness the horrible spectacle, but not so great as that which assembled to witness the execution of the five pirates. Müller was attended on to the scaffold by the Rev. Dr. Cappel, and, in reply to the exhortations of that gentleman, made with almost his last breath a confession that he had done the murder. The wretched man died almost immediately on the drop falling. He has left behind him a document which is in the custody of the Sheriffs, but this paper only contains a repetition of the story he had previously told, and in no way acknowledges his guilt. The following is the purport of what passed between Dr. Cappel and Müller:—"Dr. Cappel said—Müller, in a few minutes you will stand before God. I ask you again, and for the last time, are you guilty or not guilty?" Müller answered—Not guilty. Dr. Cappel—You are NOT guilty? Müller—God knows what I have done! Dr. Cappel—God knows what you have done! Does he also know that you have committed this crime? Müller—Yes, I have done it." The words had scarcely issued from the lips of the culprit when the drop fell and he was launched into eternity.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

Some of the Paris journals state that the Emperor has forwarded despatches to his Minister at Washington condemning the capture of the Florida in Babie Harbour, and strongly counselling the Federal Government to repudiate the conduct of the captain of the Wachusets, and to give complete satisfaction to Brazil for the violation of her neutrality. It is added that Earl Russell has proposed a joint remonstrance of the great Powers on the same subject, but that the Emperor conceived the matter to be of too great urgency to admit of so slow a process, and accordingly himself took action at once.

Official advices received in Paris from Mexico represent the Juarez army as almost entirely disbanded, and the condition of affairs as most satisfactory for the Emperor Maximilian.

ITALY.

The debate in the Italian Parliament on the Convention of the 15th of September still continues, but the interest is greatly diminished by the fact that it is perfectly well known the treaty will be approved of by a large majority. General La Marmora delivered a speech of great importance on Saturday last. He stated that he had at first been himself opposed to the Convention, but that he had become convinced of its advantages, and that he had the most entire confidence in the purposes of the Emperor Napoleon. General La Marmora mentioned the fact that he had had opportunities of conversing with the Emperor on the subject, and was satisfied that he desired to promote the cause of Italian unity, in the vitality of which, though once a sceptic, the Emperor now fully believed. Further, General La Marmora added that the Emperor is disposed to lend the aid of his influence to Italy in endeavouring to bring about, at some opportune time, a peaceful solution of the Venetian question.

Martial law has been proclaimed in eighteen districts of the provinces of Friuli and Treviso. Sentinels and patrols have received orders to fire upon all assemblages which, once summoned to disperse, fail to give instant obedience. The penalty of death is to be remitted to all insurgents who voluntarily surrender themselves or who are given up by the population. It is officially announced in Venice that a band of insurgents is proceeding towards the mountains of the Tyrol, and that troops have been sent to guard the mountain passes. General La Marmora, in a second speech in the Turin Representative Chamber, deplored this insurrectionary movement, and severely blamed the authors of it.

RUSSIA.

On the 12th inst. Lord Napier received the principal English residents in St. Petersburg, who came to take leave previous to his quitting the post of British Ambassador at the Russian Court. His Lordship, in the course of some observations which he addressed to those present, said that if peace had been preserved during the past year it was owing to the attitude of the English Ministry, who did not allow themselves to be carried away by the critical state of affairs. "The British and Russian Governments are both convinced," he said, "of the necessity of maintaining peace, and this has caused the great change in the feelings of England towards Russia. The relations between the two countries are now most satisfactory." Lord Napier hoped that a further improvement would take place, by the extension of commerce between the two countries, by the development of the liberal tendencies of the Russian Government, and a more reserved policy on the part of that Government in the Eastern question.

POLAND.

On the 10th inst. the Viceroy (Count Berg) opened the ordinary session of the State Council for the Kingdom of Poland with the following speech:—

Gentlemen.—While I bid you welcome, I have satisfaction in directing your attention to the progress made in tranquillising the country since your last meeting. Evidently, however, as this is the case, we must not conceal from ourselves that important labours still await us. An extensive conspiracy and insurrectionary efforts have threatened the prosperity of all classes of the population. The present Government of the kingdom is called to the task of rebuilding the shattered edifice, in order to repair the damages Poland has inflicted upon herself. We must re-organise all branches of the administration. I invite you to commence the examination of the Budget for the year 1865. You will learn with satisfaction that the Government of this country belongs to the number of those in Europe who are least in financial difficulties, notwithstanding the losses and the extraordinary expenses of the years 1863 and 1864. I entertain the hope that we shall succeed in a very brief period in bringing the finances into a satisfactory condition, and that our labours in all other branches of the administration will be attended with the same result.

The Governor of Galicia has issued a proclamation stating that, with the exception of high treason and rioting, the treatment of crimes and offences under the jurisdiction of the military tribunals during the state of siege will henceforward be transferred to the civil tribunals.

NEW ZEALAND.

The pacification of New Zealand is not so complete as it was hoped it would have been. Only the natives of the east coast have actually submitted. The rebel chief Rewi continues his resistance, and Thompson has not come in. The rich Waikato district, however, appears to have been abandoned by the powerful tribes formerly settled there. Taranaki, where the rebels have a strong position, will probably be the scene of the next operations. The reduction of that district may take a longer or shorter time, but the way to the final subjugation of the Maoris now seems clear.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

WAR NEWS.

We have intelligence from New York to the 5th instant.

Grant's repulse on the 27th ult. was more serious than at first represented. On the left he threw forward three entire corps—the 9th, 5th, and 2nd—with the expectation of carrying or flanking the entire Confederate works covering the Southside Railway. In a sortie made by the Confederates, they interposed a strong force between the 5th and 2nd Corps, doubled up the right flank of the latter, and drove it back in confusion, capturing many prisoners. The Federal loss in killed and wounded was 1500. General Butler's operations on the right were equally unsuccessful. Both the 10th and 18th Corps were repulsed with heavy loss in attacks upon what were considered weak points in the enemy's lines. Two brigades were cut off from retreat by the fire of the Confederate batteries. They were forced to throw themselves upon the ground to escape annihilation, and were captured in that position. Letters from the Potomac army report that Grant's losses were between 4000 and 5000. The whole movement is set down as a stupendous blunder, although Grant and Meade were both on the field. Both wings of the army returned, under cover of the night, to their original position. On the 30th ult. the Confederates made a night attack upon Grant, penetrating his lines to a considerable distance on the left, capturing 400 prisoners; but, failing to make any impression on the centre, returned to their works. Grant's army was engaged building log houses, which is suggestive of winter quarters.

Hood was stated to have attacked Decatur, Alabama, and been repulsed. He is also said to have crossed the Tennessee at Cypress Creek, Alabama, on the 30th ult., advancing towards Tennessee, to co-operate with Forrest, who has large forces at Jackson, in that State, and at Corinth, Mississippi. Macon telegrams report that Hood's flanking operations have been thus far crowned with success, and that in one month the Federals will hold no point in Georgia south of Chattanooga. Hood, in addressing his army, informed them that they were about to start on a "fifteen-days' march." Sherman was reported to be moving rapidly east from Atlanta, in which he had left only 6000 men as a garrison.

Louisville despatches state that Forrest had sent General Buford into Kentucky to demonstrate against Columbus and Paducah. Business in both places was suspended, goods removed from the stores, and preparations made for defence.

General Price appears to be retreating to Arkansas with the spoils of his late occupation of Missouri.

GENERAL NEWS.

Governor Seymour, of New York, had issued a proclamation appealing to all parties to unite in allaying undue excitement during the election. The State officers would see that every man had a free ballot, and no military organisation would be permitted near the polls. Military interference would be resisted with the full force of law. General Dix had issued another proclamation, stating that no military would be embodied around the polls. The military would, if called upon, aid the civil authorities.

Mr. Seward had informed the Mayors of New York and Buffalo that the State Department had information from Canada that a conspiracy existed to fire the principal Northern cities on the Presidential election-day. The Mayor of New York replied to Mr. Seward that he had no fear of these incendiary threats being carried out. He was, however, prepared for the emergency.

Confederate raids were reported on Castine (Maine), Cleveland, Detroit, and Ogdensburg; but they were believed to be mere electioneering inventions to justify placing troops in Northern cities.

General Butler had arrived at New York, giving rise to the supposition that he would assume the command during the elections. Governor Bradford, of Maryland, had officially proclaimed the new anti-slavery Constitution. The event was celebrated in Baltimore by a salute of 500 guns.

The territory of Nevada had been admitted to the Union as a State by proclamation of Mr. Lincoln.

President Davis had appointed the 16th inst. as a day of thanks-giving for recent successes of the Confederate arms.

Commander Cushing, of the Federal gun-boat Monticello, in a report to Admiral Porter, claims to have sunk the Confederate ram Albemarle, in Roanoke River, on the night of the 27th ult., by exploding a torpedo under her bottom. The vessel with which he made the attack was sunk by the fire of the Albemarle, and out of the crew of fourteen only himself and one seaman escaped with life.

A new Confederate cruiser, the Chickamauga, had escaped from Wilmington, and was destroying the Federal commerce. She burnt or bonded four ships, between the 20th and 31st of October, within 150 miles of Sandy Hook. The Tallahassee was also operating off the coast, and had destroyed five vessels at the entrance of Long Island Sound.

The case of the St. Albans raiders was still under consideration of the legal courts of Canada.

OPENING OF THE AUSTRIAN REICHSRATH.

SPEECH OF THE EMPEROR.

THE formal opening of the Reichsrath by the Emperor in person took place on Monday, in the Great Hall of Ceremonies of the Hofburg. The Emperor said:—

Honoured Members of my Reichsrath.—After arrangements have been made during the former part of the Session by which the Reichsrath, in force of its constitutional right, is enabled to treat subjects of legislation common to all my kingdoms and countries, I have convoked that body for the execution of this purpose, as the collective representation of my empire. While I now formally open its Session, I greet you, the Archdukes and Princes of my house, most honoured and illustrious gentlemen of both Houses of the Reichsrath.

It is my intention, so soon as the termination of your duties shall have brought this Session to a close, to allow the Lesser Reichsrath to come into operation. I also expect that in the eastern portion of my empire the same constitutional activity which so happily prevailed in my principality of Siebenburgen will everywhere begin afresh. To this object, which I desire shortly to see achieved, not only in the interest of those kingdoms, but also of my whole empire, the chief endeavours of my government are directed. Confidence and real unanimity will conduct to blessed results. A series of events important not only to my family but also to the whole empire have occurred between the close of the last Session and the present day. The acceptance of the Mexican Imperial throne, with my consent, on the part of my brother the Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian, now Emperor Maximilian I. of Mexico, has rendered necessary a settlement of the rights of the agnates therefrom brought under consideration. For this purpose I executed a family compact at Miramar on the 9th of April in the present year, which my Government is authorised to communicate to you.

Animated by the earnest endeavour to assist in the preservation and maintenance of general peace, I congratulate myself upon the good understanding and friendly relations existing between my Government and the other great Powers of Europe. I shall not cease to uphold these relations and to do everything in order to preserve my empire, at present occupied with so many important tasks, from foreign complications.

A subject of dispute for many years in the north of Germany has just been settled in the most honourable manner.

The representatives of my empire will participate with truly patriotic feeling in my satisfaction that a close, which contains the fulfilment of the highest expectations, has been put to the war between the German Powers and Denmark by the treaty of peace signed at Vienna on Oct. 30, and the ratification of which is expected in a few days. The courage of the allied troops and the navies of Austria and Prussia has conquered that splendid prize, and the wise and just reticence of the neutral Powers has facilitated the final understanding. The high value of the unanimity between myself and my august federal ally the King of Prussia has again been proved by memorable results. But I do not doubt that, in face of the glorious and happy solution of the question by which Germany has been excited to her inmost core, the entire country will again find that concord which affords so powerful a guarantee for her own safety and welfare, as well as for the quiet and equilibrium of Europe.

To my regret, the unfortunate influence which events in the kingdom of Poland have recently exercised upon the countries bordering my empire have imposed upon my Government the necessity of undertaking exceptional measures in those countries for the preservation of internal quiet and for the protection of the persons and property of the peaceable population. They have been accompanied with successful results for the security of these imperilled interests. I have perceived with satisfaction that a portion of these measures have already shown themselves capable of being dispensed with; and I gladly give myself up to the expectation that they may be entirely withdrawn at no distant period.

The finances of my kingdom will claim your special attention. It was not possible that the unfavourable conditions which everywhere govern the European money market could be without obstructive influences on the progress of the politico-economic and financial development of Austria. In this unmistakably difficult situation the payment of the increased demands of the State has yet constantly been punctually provided for. The earnest striving to economise affords satisfactory expectation that when the extraordinary State expenses still at present existing have been surmounted, the disturbances in the finances and in the equilibrium of the Budget will at last be removed. Two Budgets will exceptionally be laid before you in the present Session—namely, that for the year 1865, and immediately afterwards that for the year 1866. By this transitory measure it is intended to introduce a settled succession of time in the Sessions of the Reichsrath and the Provincial Diets, and also ensure the possibility of concluding the labours of the Budget prior to the commencement of the financial year. The first financial law constitutionally passed has been included in the general Budget for 1862; the last will be laid before you in this Session by my Government. I recommend to your especial attention the bills to be brought in for the regulation of the direct taxation, the speedy operation of which is to be desired as much in the interest of a more just and equitable partition of the burden of taxation as of a provision better corresponding to the demands of the State. Your attention will also be directed to the consideration of other financial measures, with the object of improving existing laws, and the partial, not unimportant, alleviation of the burdens of the taxpayers. I mention in this category a bill to lessen the poll tax in my principality of Siebenburgen. For several years past the politico-economic unity of Germany, which is designated in the 19th article of the Federal Act as the object of the efforts of the Federation, has taken more decided shape in later treaties, and one more in conformity with the requirements of the time. This question has engaged the full attention of my Government. To bring about a successful solution of this problem, which is of importance to the Federal Diet and greatly concerns the interests of Austria, negotiations have become necessary, which are now being conducted by my Government with that earnestness befitting the subject. The result of these negotiations will be communicated to you by my Government, and I hope that they will not be without favourable influence upon the establishment of the new customs tariff, which is to come into operation in the course of this Session. Recognising the advantages which will accrue to my empire by the increase of means of communication, I have commissioned my Government at once to direct their uninterrupted and energetic labours to the preparation of a plan for the formation of a network of railways sufficient for the wants of my kingdom and principalities. Conformably to these views, my Government will bring before you a series of bills in reference to the State guarantee to several new railway undertakings. At any rate, in the course of this Session, and as soon as possible, a bill will be submitted for constitutional consideration having for its object the formation of a line to the principality of Transylvania and through the interior of that country. With deep regret I have perceived the heavy pressure to which

trade in my territories, as well as elsewhere, has been exposed. Yet, the advanced position it has already taken up induces me to hope that, sheltered by the blessings of peace, its own power, and sound legislation, it will again attain a lasting and satisfactory development. Several bills, having reference to politico-economic interests as well as other matters coming within the province of the assembled Reichsrath, are being prepared by my Government to be laid before you, and will be brought in for discussion in the course of the Session. It is my wish, for the fulfilment of which your devoted zeal is a guarantee, to see the question to which you are about to turn your attention speedily settled, since a series of important and voluminous bills have been prepared by my Government for the consideration of the Lesser Reichsrath, whose return depends upon that condition.

Honoured members of my Reichsrath, while I dismiss you, with the assurance of my imperial favour and grace, to the consideration of the important questions before you, I am not unaware of their difficulties; but I have firm confidence that, with your counsel and assistance, I shall succeed in conducting the empire entrusted to me by Providence with a strong hand towards a fortunate future. I derive this confidence from the love and fidelity, from the sagacity and strength, of my subjects, whom I recommend to the Almighty protection of Heaven, wishing from my innocent heart that their destinies may conduce to the happiness and fame of their common Fatherland.

THE LATE OPERATIONS IN JAPAN.

A CORRESPONDENT supplies the following particulars of the late operations in Japan:—

The screw steam-ship Barrosa, 21, Captain William M'Dowell, at 2.30 p.m. on Sept. 5, weighed anchor with the squadron, consisting of the Tartar, Duplex, Metalen-Kruz (ahead), Djambi, and Leopard (astern), and proceeded under steam to a point opposite the batteries. At 2.25 the beat to quarters for action was given. At 3.25 the vessel anchored with the ships above mentioned, in a semicircle, in about eight fathoms water. At four firing commenced from the port side, the Euryalus having fired the first gun as a signal. The Japanese batteries at Maitamura returned fire immediately. At 4.30 firing commenced on the starboard side. At 4.45 the nearest battery was silenced. During the action five or six shells burst close to the quarter-deck. The hull of the ship was struck several times, and the mainmast was also struck with a large piece of shell. Several ropes were also shot away. At 5.35 the action was discontinued as per signal from the Euryalus. At 5.50 an explosion took place on shore, setting fire to some part of the battery. At 6.45 the Perseus landed men and spiked the guns of the battery, and the Medusa also landed men for the same purpose. The Perseus and Medusa, with the Tancrede, Coquette, Bouncer, and Argus then formed the inshore squadron and weighed anchor. The Barrosa did so soon afterwards. On Sept. 6, at 5.20 a.m., the forts opened fire on the Tartar, and the fire was returned with Armstrong guns whenever they could be employed. The Tartar, the Duplex, and the Metalen-Kruz also engaged the forts. At 5.50 the Barrosa ceased firing for the time, the forts being silenced. At 6.30 the Argus sent her paddle-box-boat to the Barrosa with marines in her. At 9.30 the marines of the English squadron, together with the small-arm men of the Conqueror, Euryalus, and French and Dutch ships, landed, under cover of the fire of the ships, on the beach near the battery to take possession of the forts. At 9.50 the allied colours were seen planted on the battery. At 10.40 the Perseus grounded while inshore covering the landing party. The Barrosa shifted her position several times during the day. At 5.50 p.m. she took up position inshore to protect the Perseus, occasionally firing guns at the batteries. She sent a party of men to assist the Perseus, and a rocket-boat to fire on the hills, &c. About six marines and small-arm men stormed and carried the fortified barracks. At 9 p.m. the marines returned; one of them, George Fountain, being slightly wounded in the arm. On the morning of the 7th of September a working party was sent on shore to bring off the guns from the battery. The cutter was away, firing rockets. Guns and rockets were also occasionally fired from the ship on the hills. At 1.15 p.m. an explosion took place in the battery. At 5.30 the Tartar, the Duplex, the Djambi, and the Metalen-Kruz moved up the Straits towards the other batteries. At 11.15 p.m. the Argus towed the Perseus off, and the Semiramis fired on the town up the Strait in the afternoon. On the morning of the 8th of September the Tartar directed her fire on the forts at Hikusima; the battery, however, did not return it. The working party employed were busy getting guns off the battery. The Barrosa hoisted in three guns. At 11 a.m. a boat was observed pulling, with a flag of truce, and at 1.40 p.m. the Euryalus hoisted a flag of truce, and soon afterwards made a signal to the other ships to do so. The Tancrede was firing on the hills to the east of the town up the Strait. On the 9th of September the Perseus, Medusa, Amsterdam, and Bouncer took up their position off Kusasaki, and landed a body of men to bring off guns. Several armed Japanese were observed on the road to Simonosaki, and on that leading to Chetoo.

THE FORTIFICATIONS OF WILMINGTON.

WILMINGTON is situated on the left bank of the Cape Fear River, about twenty miles from the sea. Its principal trade before the war was in turpentine and rice; the finest rice-fields in the country being here. The entrance to the Cape Fear River is guarded by three extensive sand-bars, known as the "Western," "New Inlet," and "Main" bars; the channel of the Main bar is closed up, and the entrances are effected at the Western and New Inlet bars, both of them having about 15 ft. of water on them at full spring tides. The channel ways over both bars are crooked, intricate, and only by the most skilful piloting are vessels enabled to pass in. The Confederate fortifications, constructed to protect the blockade-runners and to prevent the approach of Federal vessels, are said to be as formidable as any on the coast, and some of them outrival the battle-tried ones of Charleston Harbour. I have learned, from what I believe authentic sources, much in relation to the location and strength of some of these works. On Federal Point is situated the celebrated Fort Fisher, a work which has always been held in respectful awe by Federal blockaders. From the early months of the war this work has received additions, until it now covers a large area, and may be considered almost impenetrable to shot or shell. Its armament consists of over fifty of the finest rifled guns in the Confederacy, and its artillerists have, perhaps, no equal. Many of these guns are in casemates, which will give a great security to the gunners who are to work them. Adjoining the main work are extensive and heavily armed water-batteries. Opposite Fort Fisher are located two water-batteries, whose guns cross fire with the fort and its adjoining works. At the former site of the Federal Point Lighthouse is also a formidable earthwork, whose guns cover from seaward the entrance to New Inlet Channel at a distance of about 900 yards. Near Fort Fisher is the celebrated "Mound Battery," built up high in the air, whose superior rifled guns hurl their shot far out to sea. To enter New Inlet the Federal vessels will be subjected to a terrible angular and raking fire, and as the preliminary attack of the heavy frigates must be from outside the bar, at a distance of about two miles, they must expect to receive some damage before the whole force can be brought into line of battle. Yet when these three fifty-gun frigates, with three or four steam-sloops get fairly at work, the number of shells thrown at the works will be very large, and must necessarily prove very destructive, and it is by this rapid and heavy fire at first that leads Porter to feel confident that he can silence the works, and push by them with his light-draught vessels and ironclads. In all probability an attack will be made at the western bar entrance simultaneously with the one at New Inlet. The defences at the western bar entrance seem to be quite as formidable as those at New Inlet. Batteries on Oak Island are the first encountered, their guns having a direct range down the channel, and consequently their shot will rake the decks of the vessels as they approach. The battery at Bald Head crosses its fire with these small works, and by the time these works get fairly at play Fort Caswell will be able to join in with her heavy armament. Probably the ironclads will operate against this fort. At Smithville, a mile and a half above Fort Caswell, is a small work known as "Fort Johnson." Batteries are said to exist at Deep Water Point, Prince's Creek Lighthouse, and at other places on the river up to Wilmington.

GENERAL EARLY AND HIS ARMY.

THE New York papers of the 29th ult. contain the following address by General Early to his troops:—

Head-quarters, Valley District, Oct. 22.

Soldiers of the Army of the Valley.—I had hoped to congratulate you on the splendid victory won by you on the morning of the 19th at Bell-grove, on Cedar-creek, when you surprised and routed two corps of Sheridan's army, and drove back several miles the remaining corps, capturing eighteen pieces of artillery, 1500 prisoners, a number of colours, a large quantity of small-arms, and many wagons and ambulances, with the entire camp of the two routed corps; but I have the mortification of announcing to you that by your subsequent misconduct all the benefits of that victory were lost and a serious disaster incurred. Had you remained steadfast to your duty and your colours the victory would have been one of the most brilliant and decisive of the war; you would have gloriously retrieved the reverses of Winchester and Fisher's Hill, and entitled yourselves to the admiration and gratitude of your country. But many of you, including some commissioned officers, yielding to a disgraceful propensity for plunder, deserted your colours to appropriate to yourselves the abandoned property of the enemy, and subsequently those who had previously remained at their posts, seeing their ranks thinned by the absence of the plunderers, when the enemy, late in the afternoon, with his shattered columns made but a feeble effort to retrieve the fortunes of the day, yielded to a needless panic and fled the field in confusion, thereby converting a splendid victory into a disaster. Had any respectable number of you listened to the appeals made to you and made a stand, even at the last moment, the disaster would have been averted, and the substantial fruits of victory secured; but, under the insatiable dread of being flanked and a panic-stricken terror of the enemy's cavalry, you would listen to no appeal, threat, or order, and allowed a small body of cavalry to penetrate to our train and carry off a number of pieces of

artillery and wagons, which your disorder left unprotected. You have thus obscured that glorious name won in conjunction with the gallant men of the army of Northern Virginia, who still remain proudly defiant in the trenches around Richmond and Petersburg. Before you can again claim them as comrades you will have to erase from your escutcheons the blemishes which now obscure them; and this you can do if you will but be true to your former reputation, your country, and your homes. You who have fought at Manassas, Richmond, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and from the Wilderness to the banks of James River, and especially you who were with the immortal Jackson in all his triumphs are capable of better things. Arouse yourselves, then, to a sense of your manhood and appreciation of the sacred cause in which you are engaged. Yield to the mandates of discipline: resolve to stand by your colours in future at all hazards, and you can yet retrieve your reputation and strike effective blows for your country and its cause. Let every man spurn from him the vile plunder gathered on the field of the 19th; and let no man, whatever his rank, whether combatant or non-combatant, dare exhibit his spoils of that day. They will be badges of dishonour—the insignia of his disgrace. The officer who pauses in the career of victory to place a guard over a sutler's wagon for his private use is as bad as the soldier who halts to secure for himself the abandoned clothing or money of a flying foe, and they both sell the honour of the army and the blood of their country for a paltry price. He who follows his colours into the ranks of the enemy in pursuit of victory, disdaining the miserable passion for gathering booty, comes out of the battle with his honour untarnished, and, though bare-footed and ragged, is far more to be envied than he who is laden with rich spoils gathered in the trail of his victorious comrades. There were some exceptions to the general misconduct on the afternoon of the 19th, but it would be difficult to specify them all. Let those who did their duty be satisfied with the consciousness of having done it, and mourn that their efforts were paralysed by the misbehaviour of others. Let them be consoled, to some extent, by the reflection that the enemy has nothing to boast of on his part. The artillery and wagons taken were not won by his valour. His camps were destroyed, his army terribly shattered and demoralised, his losses far heavier than ours, even in proportion to the relative strength of the armies, his plans materially impeded, and he was unable to pursue by reason of his crippled condition. Soldiers of the army of the Valley, I do not speak to you in anger; I wish to speak in kindness, though in sorrow. My purpose is to show you the causes of our late misfortunes, and point out the way to avoid similar ones in future, and ensure success to our arms. Success can only be secured by the enforcement and observance of the most rigid discipline. Officers, whatever their rank, must not only give orders, but set the example of obeying them; and the men must follow that example. Fellow-soldiers! I am ready to lead you again in defence of our common cause, and I appeal to you by the remembrance of the glorious career in which you have formerly participated, by the woes of your bleeding country, the ruined homes and devastated fields you see around you, the cries of anguish which come up from the widows and orphans of your dead comrades, the horrors which await you and all that is yours in the future if your country is subjugated, and your hopes of freedom for yourself and your posterity, to render a cheerful and willing obedience to the rules of discipline, and to shoulder your muskets again with the determination never more to turn your backs upon the foe, but to do battle like men and soldiers until the last vestige of the footstep of our barbarous and cruel enemies is erased from the soil they desecrate and the independence of our country is firmly established. If you will do this and rely upon the protecting care of a just and merciful God, all will be well; you will again be what you once were, and I will be proud to lead you once more to battle.

J. A. EARLY, Lieutenant-General.

THE HURRICANE AT CALCUTTA.

THE Calcutta papers state that every day brings intelligence of the destruction caused by the late hurricane. In one district alone (Diamond Harbour), and the country between it and Calcutta, it has been computed that not less than 5000 souls have perished, drowned by the land flood or the storm wave. Great exertions were being made by the Calcutta community to organise a system of relief for the survivors of this dreadful visitation. A steamer had been chartered to convey medicines, blankets, rice, and water to the Diamond Harbour districts, and left Calcutta on the 14th ult. for this purpose. The following statement of the destruction to life and landed property in the town and suburbs of Calcutta is gleaned from reports submitted by the superintendents of the different divisions to the Deputy-Commissioner of Police, Captain Reveley:—

Casualties—Natives killed, 41; ditto wounded, 12; puccah houses occupied by natives damaged, 1383; ditto destroyed, 18; katcha ditto destroyed, 89,412; Europeans killed, 2; ditto wounded, 5; ditto houses damaged, 2296; ditto destroyed, 92.

The following extract from a private letter gives additional details of the mischief done in the city and harbour:—

On the evening of Tuesday, the 4th inst., the sun set amidst clouds of a deep red, with purple veins, as if bursting with passion. A gale, with rain, commenced, and lasted all night. Next morning, at daybreak, the wind was blowing fresh from the north-east, the rains still continuing. Gradually it changed round to the east, and was so fresh and the rain so heavy that after breakfast I put off going to office, in the hope that the weather might improve; the day being the first of the Doorgah Poojah, and almost every office except the Foreign Office being closed for the holidays. Between half-past ten or eleven in the morning the gale changed to a tempest, trees split up and cracked, and fell across the road, so that the residents at Garden Reach were literally hemmed in. About twelve it would have been impossible to leave the house without personal danger. Trees were torn up by the roots; doors blown in, breaking through their iron fastenings; walls blown down, and the roads rendered impassable by fallen trees and heaps of debris of broken wood and brickwork; while the alarm as regards the shipping in the river was very great. This continued without intermission until three o'clock in the afternoon, and, indeed, continued so until between four and five; but at three o'clock the bore of the Ganges burst in, and then followed such a scene as I never witnessed before. Within a few minutes—I was going to say a quarter of an hour, but it might have been half an hour—the water about my house was at least 3 ft. deep, it not deeper, and a flood extended as far as it was possible to see through the storm. Not knowing at first what was the nature of a bore, I was much alarmed, but meantime natives from all quarters were coming for shelter, which, of course, I gave them, and learned that the bore would begin to go down at five o'clock. The flood indeed subsided, but the place was not free from water till next morning—i.e., to-day, Thursday, the 6th.

This morning at six o'clock I went out, and saw trees torn up by the roots lying in all directions. Neemuk Ghat was impassable, but with some climbing I managed to reach the Peninsular and Oriental Steamer office. The Bengal was driven ashore on the Howrah side; the Nemesis and Nubia were both dismasted and otherwise injured, and I heard that hundreds of poor sailors must have been drowned, and that all the shipping in the river had been blown away from their moorings. At that time the poor fellows were even leaving the great hospital ship the Hindostan as unsafe, and it has since gone down.

The King of Oude's buildings were dismantled and flooded, and I understood from a friend that earlier in the morning he had seen many of the zenana ladies in a condition eminently calculated to offend their sense of the proprieties. As to the masses of native huts, they were simply blown down and then flooded: indeed, during the gale many sad groups of poor natives with their wives and children were seen struggling through the flood. Beef and mutton are said not to be in the bazaar, and the number of sheep, cattle, and fowls that were carried away by the storm and flood cannot be estimated. The Baboo who lets out carriages in Garden Reach has lost many ponies, and his stables are simply a marsh. Almost every tree in the Maidan is blown down. But the terrible and almost heartrending sight was the river. From what I have seen, I should say that there was not a ship left in its mooring, but I hear that two have managed to keep whole—namely, the Worcester and City of Paris. At least twenty-four have sunk to the bottom with their crews. The Moulinnein steamer went down head foremost. Of the ships driven on shore, I can safely say that there are at least sixty, and I should say 100. Many ships have been driven high and dry in the strand by the bore. There are not six dingies in the river and only two or three in the canals. At seven places in the river I saw what appeared to be from seven to twelve vessels, at least, jammed up in one spot. This alone would account for forty-nine vessels at the least, or seven wrecks at seven different spots. At least 300 European sailors are said to have been drowned; and, as for the natives, the accounts are so extraordinary that I fear to give them currency. I am afraid that something like 5000, at least, have perished in the bore and hurricane; and this is only one tenth what told me was the estimate of an old Calcutta merchant—namely, that 50,000 have perished.

I have seen such a vast number of wrecks and deserted ships this morning as I hope never to see again, and, as I am quite sure, never has been seen before since the commencement of recorded history. The sight was made doubly horrible by the crowd of sightseers in consequence of the Doorgah Poojah holidays; and yet most of the people present must have suffered more or less from the storm. You will see by the newspapers that Calcutta will be without gas for a few days, and this is only one of the many devastations. Forbes, the clothier and haircutter, close to the Foreign Office, had many of his hats and other goods blown into the street and churchyard and destroyed. Thacker and Spink's new house is thrown down. In fact, it would require many sheets to indicate the extent of the general disaster.

The trade of Calcutta must be seriously affected. Exports and imports must be at a dead stop for months in consequence of the destruction of shipping. The losses to ship's insurers must be something fearful. I am willing to believe that there has been one hurricane or typhoon in Jamaica

which was more terrible from being accompanied by an earthquake, if I remember rightly; but the destruction of shipping is unparalleled.

The catastrophe is one for which nothing can be done now. The ships are lost, the people are drowned, houses are damaged, and property destroyed, and the mere question of repairs is the work of time.

EARL RUSSELL AT ABERDEEN.

THE ceremony of installing Earl Russell as Lord Rector of the Aberdeen University took place, on the afternoon of Friday week, in Marischal College Buildings. His Lordship, having taken the oaths of office, proceeded, with the Town Council and University authorities, to the music-hall, where he delivered his inaugural address.

Earl Russell, on rising to address the meeting, was received with very great applause. After thanking the students for the honour they had done him in choosing him as their Lord Rector, he said that he would not detain them by attempting to eulogise the beauties of literature or the acquisitions of science, but proposed as the subject of his address the discussion of the two questions—first, Is there any law or general rule by which the decline of States is governed? and, secondly, What is the general aspect of the world at present, and does it teach us to hope or to despond? In discussing the first branch of his subject, Earl Russell entered at some length into a consideration of the causes of the fall of the Roman Empire, and attributed it to corruption in the government and in the morals and religion of the people. This corruption existing, the government naturally fell into the hands of men able and powerful enough to become the tyrants of the people; and it was vain to think, as Brutus and Cassius had done, that they destroyed the tyranny thus created by assassinating the Emperor. What was required was not the death of a man, but the regeneration of a people. Earl Russell then referred to the Reformation and its effects on freedom; traced the gradual rise of the spirit of liberty on the Continent, and proceeded to consider the present state of Europe and of the world, remarking, however, that it was perilous ground to walk upon. It was evident that barbarian races must give way before the more civilised. This was exemplified in America and other countries. His Lordship then went on to inquire whether, with regard to Europe, any improvements had been made in government. He needed not to refer to England, for this country, he said, had for many years enjoyed in its perfection, or nearly in its perfection, that which he believed to be the best of the imperfect forms of government which man can attain to; but within a not long time a representative government, more or less imperfect, had sprung up in various parts of Europe. In France, in Austria, in Spain, in Portugal, and in some other countries, there were forms of representative monarchy. And the struggle, similar to what had taken place in this country from the accession of James I. to the accession of George II., for free institutions was now going on in these countries. Referring to Italy, Earl Russell said:—But what, I confess, I rejoice in especially is that Italy which was so long dead—that Italy which for so many centuries lay in the torpor to which she had been condemned by the arms of the Emperor Charles V., of which I have spoken, has roused herself and has risen again; and as she flourished once as the Republic of a single city, spreading its arms and arts everywhere; as she flourished again as a number of disunited Republics, each distinguished by its arts and by its vigour in carrying on war and contest against the others; so I hope now there may be a third shape of freedom and happiness to Italy; and that, as a constitutional monarchy, she will shine again among the Powers and States of Europe. His Lordship then referred to the struggles of Greece to get through its factions and its difficulties of every kind; and then went on to speak of the continent of Africa, which in many parts had got rid of that of detestable crime, the slave trade; and expressed his belief that the task of civilising Africa would not be a useless sacrifice, but that light was still to shine in that part of the world. Of this faith, said his Lordship, was a man who was never named in society but with honour—Captain Speke, the traveller of Africa. Referring to America, Earl Russell said:—There is another portion of the globe where we still have to lament the scenes of bloodshed which are to be witnessed; there we still have to lament that the bloody arbitrament of war has not been brought to a close, and if there is any bright spot in that dark scene it is for the African race. Whichever way the war may end, whether the States may again unite or whether there is to be a final separation—I cannot but believe that out of these events the African race are to receive their freedom. I am sure I need not speak to you of abhorrence of slavery, because we must all have that abhorrence as strong as we ever had; but there is one thing which makes it quite impossible that the master and the slave should ever live in harmony together.

His Lordship then referred to the progress of religion, the civilising influences of Christianity, and to the need for the exercise of charity in the discussions now going on on this subject. Earl Russell concluded, amidst very warm applause, by thanking the audience for the attention they had given him. His Lordship spoke for an hour and a quarter.

The music-hall was quite filled by students and others, and the reception given to Earl Russell on entering and leaving the hall, and even when he was driving through the streets, was very enthusiastic. After the inaugural address, an address of welcome from the students was read and presented to his Lordship and acknowledged.

THE BATTLE OF FISHER'S HILL.

OUR Engravings represent the attack made some time since by the Confederate force under General Early upon the troops of General Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley and the counter-attack effected by the Federals, who ultimately drove "the rebels" to Fisher's Hill and turned the fortune of the day. This "Federal victory," as it has been called, has been made so much of in the interest of President Lincoln, with a view to influencing his re-election, that it will doubtless be regarded as one of the great historical events of the war.

General Sheridan, in his official reports, says, in writing of the engagement which took place on the 19th of October:—

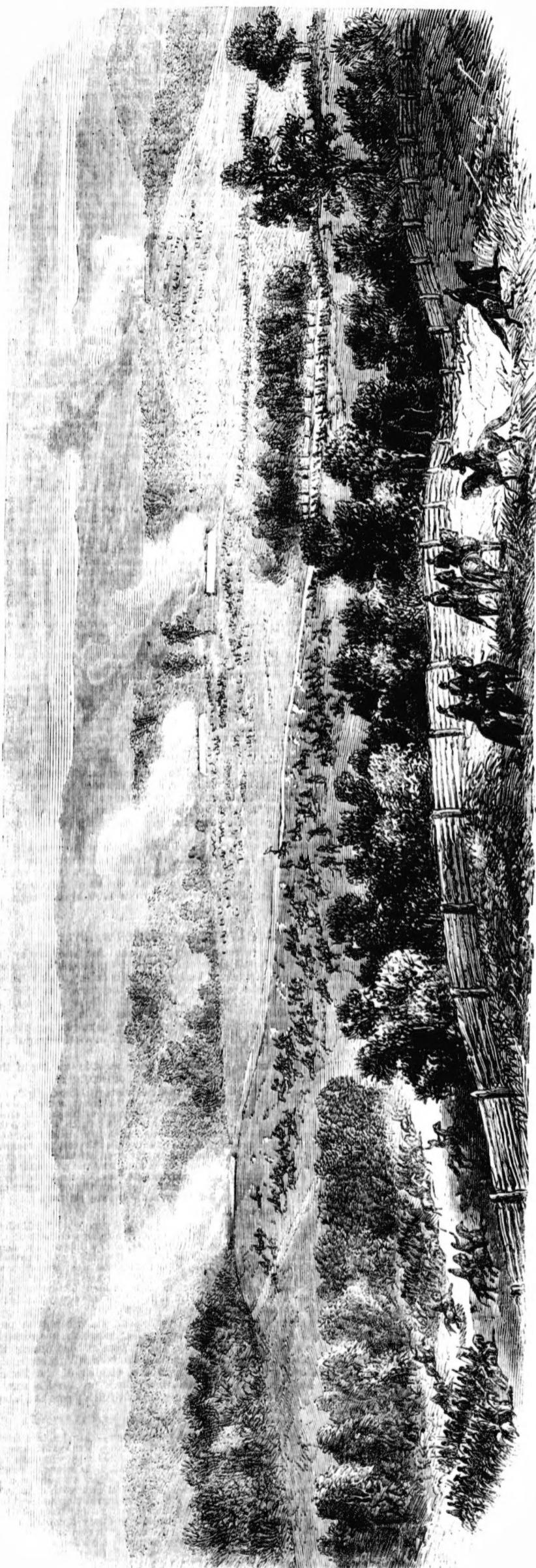
My army at Cedar Creek was attacked this morning before day light, and my left was turned and driven in confusion—in fact, most of the line was driven in confusion—with a loss of twenty pieces of artillery. I hastened from Winchester, where I was on my way from Washington, and found the army between Middlefield and Newtown, having been driven back four miles. I here took affairs in hand, and quickly united the corps, and formed a compact line of battle, just in time to repulse an attack of the enemy, which was handsomely done at about eleven a.m. At three p.m., after some changes of the cavalry from the left to the right flank, I attacked the enemy with great vigour, driving and routing him, and capturing, according to the last report, forty-three pieces of artillery, and very many prisoners.

On the following day he writes:—

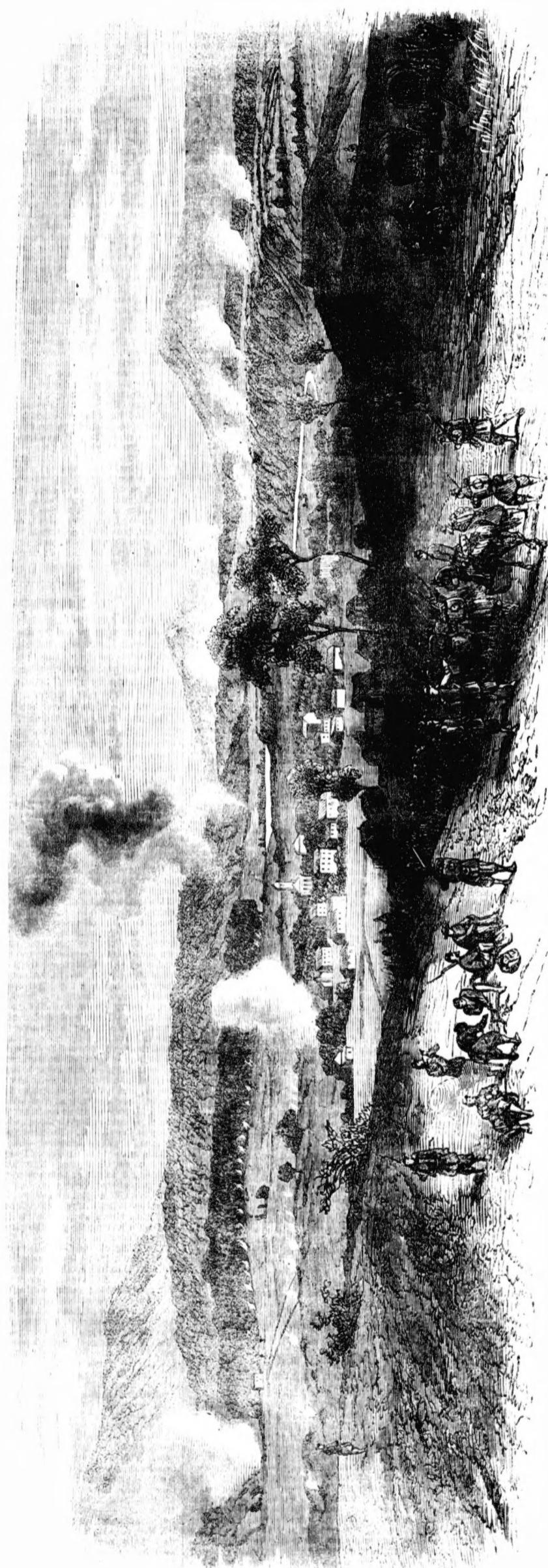
The attack on the enemy was made about three p.m. by a left half wheel of the whole line, with a division of cavalry, turning each flank of the enemy. The whole line advanced. The enemy, after a stubborn resistance, broke and fled, and were pushed with vigour. The artillery captured will probably be over fifty pieces. This, of course, includes what were captured from our troops in early morning. At least 1600 prisoners have been brought in, besides wagons and ambulances in large numbers. This morning the cavalry made a dash at Fisher's Hill and carried it, the enemy having fled during the night, leaving only a small rear guard.

The Southern account of the engagement, which has been published in the *Richmond Examiner*, gives, as usual, a somewhat different complexion to the affair, since it states that during the two previous days the Southern cavalry had been driving the enemy down the valley; and that, though the massing of the Federal infantry and the display of his whole force produced a sort of stampede of the Confederate troops, only five fieldpieces and about 200 men killed and wounded were lost.

THE HAVELOCK MONUMENT, CHARTERHOUSE.—There has been erected in the cloisters of the chapel of Charterhouse a monument to the memory of General Havelock, K.C.B., one of the distinguished men who have been educated at that celebrated school. Shortly after his lamented death a meeting was held in the hall of the institution, when a subscription was entered into, resulting in the erection of a mural monument of imposing appearance. The design combines eight different marbles arranged with much taste, and the inscription, in letters of gold on the black plinth, is thus:—"The schoolfellow of Major-General Sir Henry Havelock, K.C.B., erected this monument in memory of him and of other Carthusians who have fallen in war." The face of the monument is divided into fifteen compartments, gilt, on which are to be painted the names of all who have distinguished themselves and fallen in the service of their country. The prominent parts of the mouldings and foliage and volutes are tipped with gilt, which gives a very fine relief, and in the centre of the upper moulding the coat of arms is appropriately placed, a neatly-painted specimen of heraldry. It is blazoned: "vert, a castle triple-towered argent, masoned sable between two fleurs-de-lis, in chief and in base a crosslet fitchée, or with the motto, "Tria juncta in uno." It is remarkable that a statue to the munificent founder of this unrivalled institution should never have been erected. The Founding has Mr. Coram, and many almshouses of inferior importance exhibit the figures of the benevolent donors. A statue, in a becoming style of sculpture, would be an interesting memorial of Thomas Sutton, and an ornament in one of the squares of this spacious establishment, so richly endowed.



THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA: THE ATTACK ON THE RIGHT AT THE BATTLE OF FISHER'S HILL.



GENERAL VIEW OF FISHER'S HILL DURING THE ENGAGEMENT.



THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH DISTRIBUTING DECORATIONS TO THE OFFICERS OF THE ARMY OF MEXICO ON THE PLAIN OF SARTORY.

DISTRIBUTION OF DECORATIONS TO THE ARMY OF MEXICO BY THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH.

The Engraving on page 325 represents one of the ceremonies which immediately preceded the visit of the Emperor of the French to Nice, when, before leaving Versailles, he reviewed the artillery of the Guard and four regiments of Lancers, who had been garrisoned there. The review, which was not previously announced, was held on the plain of Satory, near Versailles, and was principally intended for the purpose of distributing the rewards to the officers and soldiers in those regiments who had taken part in the expedition to Mexico. His Majesty made his entry into Satory, accompanied by the Empress and ladies of her suite, as well as by a numerous and brilliant staff. Her Majesty the Empress, and the ladies who accompanied her, stopped before the flags which had been taken at Puebla; and shortly afterwards the artillery and cavalry commenced their evolutions, under the command of Generals Rochevoit and D'Allonville. The spectators were in such a position, in consequence of the nature of the ground, that they could obtain an uninterrupted view of the manoeuvres of the troops, which were executed with the greatest precision. After this display the rewards were distributed first to M. de Favas, who received from the hand of the Emperor the decoration of the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour; the other officers following according to their rank.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1864.

EARL RUSSELL ON THE DECLINE OF STATES

EARL RUSSELL, in the opinion of many persons, has, in the course of his career, furnished several illustrations of the folly which even eminent men sometimes commit when they venture "beyond their last," and meddle with matters with which they are but indifferently qualified to deal. And yet the noble Lord can hardly be said to have transgressed the maxim of "Ne sutor ultra crepidam," when, in his inaugural address at Aberdeen last week, he eschewed discussion on classical and scientific learning, and chose a theme better suited to the character of his mind and to the range of his study and experience. Political philosophy and constitutional history have been the topics which have pre-eminently occupied him during his whole life; and on such themes, therefore, he may justly be expected to speak as one having authority. His Lordship's mistake—for we think he did make a mistake—consisted not so much in selecting an appropriate topic on which to descant before the professors and students of the ancient Northern University, as in choosing one too large to be exhaustively handled in a mere inaugural address. The rash self-confidence attributed by Sidney Smith to Earl Russell in his youth, seems still to cling to him even in his old age: he is still ready to attempt more than it is possible for him to achieve.

"First, is there any law or general rule by which the decline of States is governed? and, second, what is the general aspect of the world at present, and doth it teach us to hope or despond?" These were the two problems Earl Russell set himself to solve, either of which would have been more than enough to have occupied an address double the duration of that of the noble Lord. We need not, therefore, be surprised to find that he dealt with each in a vague and unsatisfactory way. With his remarks on the influence of the Reformation, and on the consequences which flowed from the suppression of freedom in France by Charles VIII., and in Spain and Italy by the Emperor Charles V., we have no fault to find. We quite agree with him, that the conduct of both monarchs was at once criminal and unwise; and that to deprive a people of their liberties must ultimately recoil upon the person by whom such a crime is perpetrated, or on his representatives. It may, however, be doubted whether Earl Russell's universal panacea—representative government—be equally well suited to every people, and can be a cure for all the political ills that flesh is heir to. It does not follow, because we in England have pretty nearly perfected the machinery of representative government, and have found it to answer our purpose tolerably well, that therefore it must be adapted to every other nation, and be capable of being worked everywhere as successfully as it has been in this country. Other nations have made the attempt and have failed. The fault may, and probably does, lie in the people failing, and not in the principle; but this just proves that institutions which a people cannot work are not suited to them.

But it is to the manner in which he dealt with the great lesson to be learned from the decline and fall of Rome that we have most fault to find with Earl Russell. "Rome," said he, "lost her liberty, declined, and fell, because gross corruption prevailed in the government, the morals, and the religion of her people." But did it not occur to his Lordship that he was here mistaking an effect for a cause? What produced the general corruption which prevailed in Rome during the later years of the Republic and throughout the whole of the Empire? His Lordship's cause is itself but an effect—at the best, but a secondary cause; there must have been something antecedent that caused the cause. Had the noble Lord pursued the inquiry a little further, he would, we think, have discovered that the very success of the Roman arms, the extent and diversified character of her dominions, and the wealth she acquired by the conquest of some of the richest portions of the then known world, contained the elements of the corruption he deprecated, and therefore the source of the disasters which finally overwhelmed the State. Her armies

Brought many captives home to Rome,
Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill;

but, full as were the coffers of her citizens, enormous as was the wealth which was poured into the city, the wants of the Romans became greater still. The natural result of conquest is the acquisition of wealth: the natural result of the possession of wealth is luxurious living: and the natural results of luxurious living are effeminacy and corruption. The old Roman virtues of hardihood, fortitude, temperance, and self-denial were undermined. The people bartered their liberties for the means of indulging their appetites. The soldiers of Rome ceased to be the citizens of Rome. The defence of the State was intrusted to mercenaries—men recruited in the newly-conquered provinces, who fought not for the honour or the interests but for the pay of Rome; while the native citizens of the State remained at home at ease, and, of course, speedily became the slaves of their own servants. Hence it happened that in proportion as the State extended her borders, and a stronger hand became necessary to control the various parts, the centre of authority became weakened and less capable of performing its functions. Hence the corruption which obtained in the disposal of office; hence the revolts of the armies and generals in the outlying provinces; and hence the feebleness which left the heart of the State itself an easy prey to every daring adventurer, and subjected the people to "villain bonds and despot sway." In short, the Empire broke to pieces by reason of its own hugeness and the inevitable feebleness which vast wealth and consequent effeminacy and corruption had engendered at the core. Are not the same influences at work in all commonwealths which attain to pre-eminent power and prosperity? Will not like results follow? And out of this may we not deduce the law which Earl Russell affected to seek, but did not really set himself to find?

Of two lessons to be drawn from the fate of Rome—that vast wealth is subversive of virtue, and that limitless dominion is inconsistent with permanent power—we commend one to the consideration of the people of Great Britain: both to those of the United States. We in England are rapidly becoming the richest people in the world; are we also acquiring the luxurious tastes and the effeminate characteristics which naturally follow? We have but recently been taunted by the publicists of the Continent with a disinclination to fight, because, as is alleged, we have too much to lose and too little to gain by war. Is this true? And, if true, does it foreshadow a fate like that of the greatest and at one time the most virtuous people of antiquity? To be sure, we have a nobler system of religion, and a more perfect political organisation than the Romans had, and our wealth is not so much the fruit of conquest as of our own industry; and there is much virtue in these three facts. Still our very prosperity may be surely though silently working our ruin, and the wealth on which we pride ourselves may ultimately prove our greatest curse. The extent of our dominions, vast though these be, need occasion us less concern. The institutions we have given to our colonies make them each self-governing and capable also of being self-supporting. They are each, as it were, an *imperium in imperio*—a State within a State; and any or all of those outlying limbs might be lopped off without seriously maiming the central trunk. We are aware of this, and have accustomed ourselves to the contemplation of such an eventuality; but the people of the northern portion of the United States of America have not the same consolation. They dream of an undivided sway over a continent larger and more diversified than the empire which owned the sway of Rome even in her palmiest hour. Should they fail to realise that dream, the whole fabric of their national ambition will crumble to pieces, and they will become bankrupts in hope as they are seemingly fast becoming bankrupts in public virtue. In the States the accumulation of wealth has been more rapid; luxurious habits of more vigorous growth; and corruption, if we may believe the reports we receive, of more palpable development, than in any State the world has ever seen. Will their disintegration and decay be in proportion rapid and complete? Americans, we fear, are but little in the habit of studying the history of other nations, and care less for the lessons it teaches; but, if their mushroom prosperity is to bring upon them the fate of Carthage and of Rome, they may yet have reason to bless events which shall tend to limit their aspirations, curtail their power and wealth, and check the development of luxury, effeminacy, and corruption in people, government, morals, and religion.

THE DANISH WOUNDED.—The committee which at the outset of the Danish War was formed, under the presidency of the Marquis of Clanricarde, to collect funds for the relief of the sick and wounded of the Danish army, have just remitted a final sum of £124 15s. 6d. to the Danish committee at Copenhagen, making a total of nearly £2900 collected in England and remitted to Denmark for this benevolent object. The collection of such a sum for the relief of the wounded of a foreign army is no slight evidence of the sympathy felt in England for the Danes in their gallant struggle against an overwhelming force.

THE SMITHFIELD CLUB CATTLE SHOW.—On Saturday the whole of the materials and fittings which occupied the grand area of the Agricultural Hall, at Islington, during the late industrial exhibition were removed, and a large number of workmen were employed in the preparations necessary to render the building available for the purposes of the ensuing Christmas cattle show of the Smithfield Club. It has been already stated that the probable effect of the large increase made by the club in the number and amount of the prizes to be awarded would be to produce a larger number of entries than on previous occasions, and the returns of such entries proved this to be the case, notwithstanding the fact that the great provincial cattle shows of Darlington and Liverpool take place concurrently with that of Smithfield this year—viz., the 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th of December. The number of entries this year in the cattle classes are 281 as against 243 last year. For sheep entries there are 112 pens of three, and 76 single specimens, as against 89 pens of three and 65 single pens in 1863. For pigs the entries are 51 pens of three and 25 single pens, against 37 pens of three and 19 single specimens of porkers last year; the gross being 545 this year of pens and animals, against 453 last year. The gross number of animals entered for this year are:—Beasts, 281; sheep, 412; pigs, 178: total, 871. At the show of 1863 the number of beasts was 243; sheep, 332; and pigs, 130: total, 705, being a gross increase this year of 166 animals as compared with last year's show.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE VISIT of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Lord Derby at Knowsley has been postponed in consequence of the illness of the noble Lord, who has been suffering from a severe attack of gout. The noble Earl, however, is now much better.

FIELD MARSHAL VISCOUNT COMBERMERE celebrated his ninety-second birthday on Monday.

GENERAL GRANT, it is said, recently proposed to attack Richmond with large masses of men at four points, and estimated his probable loss at 40,000 men!

MR. COBDEN, M.P., will address his constituents at Rochdale on the 23rd inst., when Mr. Bright, M.P., will take part in the proceedings.

COLONEL M' MURDO will be succeeded as Inspector-General of Volunteers by Colonel Erskine, who has for some time very efficiently discharged the duties of deputy inspector.

A FALL OF SNOW TOOK PLACE AT MADRID on the 10th inst., and lasted two hours.

BRAZIL has broken off friendly relations with the United States on account of the seizure of the Florida.

FIFTY PEARS on a stem 18 inches in length were exhibited lately at a fair in San Francisco. The fruit weighed 19 lb.

THE TREATY OF PEACE between Denmark and Austria and Prussia has now been fully completed, the ratifications having been exchanged at Vienna on Wednesday.

UPWARDS OF 1000 ACRES OF BROCOLI are at present under cultivation in the neighbourhood of Penzance.

AT GLASGOW, last week, a boy found a parcel containing £1000 in notes, and received from the loser a reward of £100.

THE ADMIRALTY have decided on the immediate breaking up of a number of the paddle-wheel and screw steamers now encumbering the channel of the Medway between Chatham Harbour and Sheerness.

A YOUTH, aged seventeen, has died in convulsions at Clitheroe from chewing a kind of tobacco known as Limerick roll.

THE GENERALS and orderly officers of the households of the King of Italy and of Prince Humbert have spontaneously renounced the pay they received from his Majesty's privy purse. The sum paid to the Generals was 4000f. a year, and to the others 2000f.

INUNDATIONS HAVE OCCURRED NEAR VALENCIA, in Spain, by which twenty-seven villages have been destroyed, and great loss of life has been caused.

M. WOLOWSKI, formerly Procureur-Général of the kingdom of Poland, has died in Siberia, to which he had been banished. He was condemned to death, but his sentence was commuted to exile.

MGR. BUONAPARTE is, it is reported, on the point of leaving Rome for Paris, with a mission from the Pope. Mgr. Buonaparte is the second son of the Prince of Canino, who died in 1857, and he is said to be much liked by both the Emperor and the Empress of the French.

A DREADFUL FIRE has occurred at the Worcester Railway works. The damage is estimated at £25,000, and more than 400 workpeople will be thrown out of employment. The cause of the fire is unknown.

A NOTICE of a recent steam-boat explosion in an American paper ends as follows:—"The captain swam ashore. So did the chambermaid; she was insured for 15,000 dols. and loaded with iron."

THE MISSES THACKRAY have presented to the scholars of the Charterhouse the iron bedstead which belonged to their father, and on which he died. It is now in the sleeping-room of the Head Master of the Gown Boys. On it is inscribed a legend in Latin, from the pen of Archdeacon Hale.

A ROYAL DECREE has been issued at Madrid appointing Admiral Pareja to the command of the Pacific squadron, in the place of Admiral Pinzon, who has been recalled. More vigorous measures are to be adopted against Peru.

A WORKING MAN NAMED FONTAINES, endowed with wonderful calculating abilities, is at present giving an exhibition of his powers in Lyons. He promptly solves the most complicated mathematical problems by a mental process peculiar to himself.

THE FOLLOWING EPITAPH may be seen in the cemetery of a parish in the environs of Paris:—"Here lies Madame N.—, wife of M. N.—, her master blacksmith. The railing around this tomb was manufactured by her husband."

A GENTLEMAN was robbed of his watch in London, but was able to give a description of the thief. The police visited a public-house in Spitalfields, and found the suspected man weighing a gold chain. After a desperate resistance he was handcuffed, and, the house being searched, a large quantity of stolen property was discovered.

THE TOWERS OF BRANCEPETH CASTLE are to be taken down and rebuilt in accordance with the original style of architecture. Mr. Salvin, of London, by whom Alnwick was restored, is the architect, and the execution of the work has been intrusted to Mr. John Foster, of Durham.

THE QUEEN OF SPAIN gives direct pecuniary assistance to 3000 men and 1767 women, and gives employment of different kinds to 1954 men, making in all 6751 individuals. This relief costs her Majesty a sum of 10,226,000 reals (five sous each). In the number there are persons of all classes, from the highest to the most humble.

A SERIOUS RIOT between the Roman Catholic "navvies" and the Protestant inhabitants of South Queensferry, near Edinburgh, took place on Saturday night last. Several persons were much injured, though, happily, there have been no fatal consequences. The Irish party seems to have been the originators of the disturbances.

TWO LABOURING MEN, when digging in a gravel pit at Stockerton in June last, found a jar containing sixty-two gold coins. The coins were forwarded to the Treasury. On Tuesday week Mr. Goodyer, the chief constable of the county, having received instructions from the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury, paid the fortunate finders the sum of £55 13s. 9d., being the value of the treasure.

NEW PARK AT WIMBLEDON.—Earl Spencer has proposed a plan for the conversion of Wimbledon-common, or at least about 700 acres of it, into an ornamental park. The costs of the conversion he proposes to defray by the sale of detached or outlying fragments for villa purposes. The cost of keeping it in order he would take upon himself and his successors, on condition that the right of pasture was secured to them. He would, in virtue of his present position of lord of the manor, assume the name and functions of protector of the park, with an officer of Government associated with him, in order that the public may not suffer from any caprice of himself or his successors. The plan, which was submitted to the residents in the neighbourhood, appeared to be generally approved of; but a committee was appointed to examine it, and an Act of Parliament will be required for its realisation.

"TO MY MOTHER, IN HEAVEN."—A lady residing in the Rue de Rivoli, Paris, returned some time since from a visit she had made in the department of Finistère, bringing with her a young orphan girl, poor, but very pretty, named Yvonne S.—, whom she engaged as her waiting-maid. Last month, a short time after her return to Paris, the lady died. When the body had been prepared for the coffin, and was for a short time left alone, Yvonne was seen to go stealthily into the room, lift up the shroud, and then hastily leave. The first idea was that she had taken a ring which, at the express desire of the deceased, had been left on her finger. On examination, however, the ring was discovered to be untouched, but a paper was seen attached with a pin to the shroud. On inspection it was found to be a letter addressed by the young orphan to her mother, who died two years ago; and was as follows:—"My good Mother—I have to tell you that M. B.— has made me an offer of marriage. As you are no longer here, I beg you to make known to me, in a dream, whether I ought to marry him, and to give me your consent. I avail myself, in order to write to you, of the opportunity of my mistress, who is going to heaven." The letter was addressed, "To my Mother, in Heaven." The person alluded to in the letter is one of the tradesmen of the deceased lady, who, having been struck with the good conduct of the young girl, had made her an offer of marriage.

A KING IN THE POLICE COURT.—Antonio de Tonnens, who calls himself "King of Araucania," was on Saturday last brought up in the Correctional Police Court of Paris on a charge of swindling. He was accused of occupying apartments at 50f. a month, and living in an expensive manner without any means of paying. During the time he was in the hotel he had got printed statutes of a company with 600,000,000f. capital, which he intended to form to turn his Royal possessions to profit, but he got no shareholders. After the reading of the act of accusation, a long examination followed, in which the accused tried to defend himself as best he could. He had hopes of forming his company; he had hopes of getting back his crown; he had no intention of swindling anybody; he had given the landlady of the hotel an acknowledgment of his debt, which he meant and which he tried to pay; but all his exertions to raise money failed. Witnesses were called, who deposed that he had been for some time King of Araucania, and that he had been taken prisoner by the Chilianians and sentenced to be shot, and that he was saved by the French authorities. Moreover, it was proved by a letter from the Procureur at Périgueux that, during the time he practised there as a lawyer he had borne an excellent character for probity. The Procureur moreover added that he did not believe him capable of swindling anybody, but that his pretended royalty of Araucania had completely upset his ideas and made him indulge the most preposterous projects, and that he was affected with a monomania which had completely absorbed his intellect. The judgment of the Court was to this effect:—Whereas by assuming the title of Prince and King of Araucania the accused may have acted under the influence of chimerical thoughts and facts, but which, perhaps, to him, seemed true; that, consequently, the character of swindling not appearing in the case, it decided that there was good reason to pronounce his acquittal. He was accordingly set at liberty.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

MR. GORE-LANGTON, who has represented Bristol since 1852, has formally announced that he will not solicit the suffrages of the Bristolians again. His failing health warns him to leave the House of Commons, and he has listened to the warning. Sir Samuel Morton Peto is in the field, and presented himself to the electors on Monday last. Sir Morton, as everybody knows, now represents Finsbury, and doubtless he might continue to represent Finsbury if he were so minded. But Sir Morton is tired of the heavy labours which Finsbury, like all the metropolitan boroughs, exacts from its members. And no wonder. I heard a metropolitan member say, towards the end of the last Session, that since Parliament opened, in February, he had written upwards of 800 letters, all of which were more or less on business connected with the borough he represented. But this correspondence was not the heaviest of his burdens; this he could bear with equanimity. A thousand letters in a Session, or about six a day, would not have frightened Sir Morton Peto, with his private secretary always at hand, away from Finsbury. But, in addition to this epistolary correspondence, there was the personal. Every Englishman's house is his castle, we fondly say; but if the metropolitan member's house be his castle, it is a castle besieged. Nor can we wonder at this. Finsbury has nearly 23,000 voters. Of these, some thousands, not being in very prosperous circumstances, would be glad to have places for themselves or sons under the Government or on some railway; and what more natural than to go to their member, especially if that member be Sir Morton Peto, employing some 30,000 people, and connected, directly or indirectly, with half the railways in the world? But, besides this, think what meetings there are to be attended; what deputations to be received, &c. The wonder is, I think, that any man should consent to represent a metropolitan constituency, and not that Sir Morton Peto, after six years of servitude, should break away from his bonds. No doubt, the representation of Bristol will bring with it its own penalties; but Bristol is not more than half the size of Finsbury, and, then, it is a long way off. A great advantage this last. If I were ambitious to get into Parliament, Orkney is the place which I should like to represent. Mr. Frederic Dundas has represented Orkney altogether for twenty years; and I am told that during that period he has not seen a dozen of his constituents in town.

Bristol in old days, when it had an interest in the sugar monopoly, used to be Conservative; but it has of late years always returned Liberals, and I think that Sir Morton Peto will be the colleague of Mr. Berkeley; a Conservative, though, is in the field—to wit, Mr. T. Fremantle. This gentleman I take to be the eldest son of the Right Honourable Sir Thomas Fremantle, Bart., chairman of the Commissioners of Customs, and formerly patronage Secretary of the Treasury and Sir Robert Peel's chief whip. Sir Thomas's Parliamentary career was tolerably successful. He was in the House about twenty years. He held the office of Secretary to the Treasury (salary £2000 a year) about six years, and he has been chairman of the Customs Commissioners (salary £2000 a year) for nearly twenty years. Will his son's speculation turn out as well? That may be doubted. Conservatism in the House of Commons has not been a good speculation for many years past, nor does the market show any rising tendencies. If I were a mere political speculator and had gone in for Conservatism I should hedge.

Some weeks ago, in noticing Mr. McCormick's failure, I remarked, "By-the-way, this failure of Mr. McCormick explains a circumstance which was involved in no small mystery." You will remember that, before a Committee of the House of Commons last Session to investigate some odd-looking transactions connected with the contracts for the Thames embankment, it came out that Mr. McCormick offered to be bound for, or even join in partnership with, a certain contractor who had sent in a tender at a much lower figure than that of a Mr. Furness, and that this offer was refused by the Metropolitan Board of Works. Mr. Thwaites was pressed to give a reason for the refusal and declined, sheltering himself under the plea of confidential communication; and I then went on to say "that probably Mr. Thwaites may have been better acquainted with Mr. McCormick's position than the Committee or the public generally were." Since I wrote this I have received several communications upon the subject, from which I gather that the case was this:—Mr. Furness's tender was £520,000, Mr. Ridley's £495,000. The Board accepted Mr. Ridley's, provisionally; but his surety for £20,000 was objected to. Whereupon, Mr. Ridley offered to deposit £20,000; but the Board then decided that he had not had sufficient experience. At this juncture, Mr. McCormick, who has had more experience in embankments and docks than any other contractor living, came forward and offered to join Mr. Ridley; but still the Board refused to give the contract to Mr. Ridley. The question of security, then, was, you will see, before Mr. McCormick came on to the stage, settled by Mr. Ridley offering to deposit £20,000.

And now, whilst I am on this subject, I may as well notice another curious fact which came out of the examination. Mr. Furness had a large contract for works at Odessa. On this contract Mr. Bazalgette, the surveyor to the Board of Works, was to have a commission of £12,000. When this came to be known by the Board of Works there was no small stir, as you may imagine. But please to mark this. Before this Odessa business got wind the Board of Works had, on the recommendation of Mr. Bazalgette, refused Mr. Ridley's tender to make the embankment for £495,000 and given the contract to Mr. Furness, whose tender was £520,000. The Parliamentary Committee aforesaid discovered a good many more questionable transactions in the embankment business; but it would take more space than I have at command to make them intelligible to your readers.

Mr. McCulloch, the Comptroller of the Stationery Office, is dead. By his death a nice place is at the disposal of the Government. The minimum salary is £1000 a year, rising £40 a year to a maximum of £1200. Mr. McCulloch had £1200 for many years. He also had a pension of £200 a year awarded to him for his services to literature. If it were the practice of the Government to give places to men because they are qualified to perform the duties thereof, some one who understands printing and stationery, and is generally a man of practical business habits, would be appointed to succeed Mr. McCulloch. The Government stationery and printing costs the country annually nearly half a million of money, and is, I think, increasing year by year. Surely the Comptroller of this expensive department ought to know something of that which he has to control. Of the late Comptroller's qualifications I say nothing. But in every public department there are loud complaints that the stationery is bad in quality; and everyone who has had opportunities of looking into these departments knows that the waste of stationery is awful. There is, however, one business which comes under the management of the Comptroller which positively pays a large profit—to wit, the publication of the *Gazettes*. In 1862 (I have not the later estimates handy) from the *London Gazette* there was paid to the credit of the Treasury a net profit of £1974 15s. 3d.; from the Edinburgh, £1994 15s. 1d.; from the Dublin, £164 17s. 2d. total, £11,634 11s. 6d. This case is, I think, unique. On nothing else throughout the whole range of Government departments is a profit obtained.

The execution of Müller, and the disgusting, sickening scenes in front of the gallows reminds me that the Government consented to the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the provisions and operations of the laws under which the punishment of death is now inflicted in the United Kingdom, and the manner in which it is inflicted, and to report whether it is desirable to make alterations therein. Mr. William Ewart moved that a Select Committee of the House be appointed to inquire into the expediency of maintaining the punishment of death. To this Lord Henry Lennox moved an amendment not of much importance; and Mr. Neate another, as above, which Sir George Grey having assented to, Mr. Ewart withdrew his motion, and Mr. Neate's proposition was carried *nem. con.* But has the commission been appointed? I have not heard of it. Alas! how tenaciously we cling to old traditions, and customs, and practices. I suppose there is no country in the world where principles proved to be erroneous are more obstinately adhered to. Sentence has been pronounced against the gallows by every

jurist and philosopher of note who has written on the subject for twenty years. But still its horrid form disgusts and afflicts us. It is, however, doomed to fall soon, I do verily believe. It is like a tree three parts sawn through. One or two more debates like that which we had in the house in May last, so quiet and earnest, soably sustained, so devoutly listened to, will at last, I am persuaded, sweep the gallows-tree for ever from English soil. Or if this Royal Commission should pronounce against it, I think it will go.

That Christmas is approaching is evidenced by the dead walls and hoardings of this huge metropolis. No sooner do the autumn leaves fall from the trees than many-coloured posters bloom before our eyes—a sort of winter wall fruit. The enigmatical advertisements are, I believe, all intended to herald the Christmas numbers of various periodicals. "Mrs. Lirriper's Legacy" is, of course, the property of *All the Year Round*; and I hear great things of the forthcoming number. "Are You Invited?" is, I am told, the title of the Christmas offering of *Chamber's Edinburgh Journal*; and the "Bunch of Keys" is a Christmas book, edited by Mr. Tom Hood, and containing a contribution from that gentleman's pen, as well as stories by other authors.

Here is a curious little passage, purporting to be art-criticism, which I met with in the *Athenaeum* last Saturday. It occurs in the "Art Gossip," apropos of Messrs. Cassell's issue of "Gulliver's Travels":—

A whole-length figure of Gulliver among the Lilliputians is the leading feature of this issue. As this design bears no artist's name we decline to give an opinion on it.

I should like to know in what way an artist's name can possibly assist an art-critic to decide on the merits or demerits of a picture. Is that which is "good work" in A., "vile scribbling" in B.? Or does the correctness of an outline depend on whether C. or D. drew it? I confess the ingenuous confession makes me smile. Surely, too, the art-critic of the *Athenaeum* ought to know his business well enough to be able to detect an artist by his style. I don't mean that he should be able to discriminate between the thousand-and-one imitators who "do" Gilbert for cheap periodicals; but short of that, he ought to be well enough up to the touch of every artist of note to be able to swear to him anywhere. The picture in question is by Mr. Thomas Morten; and a very clever design it is, though ruthlessly engraved. I may add that Mr. Morten is doing all the drawings for this work apparently, and appears to be studying Gustave Doré to good purpose, and without slavish imitation. He had better sign his blocks in future, though, if he hopes for notice from the mighty *Athenaeum*.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

There are before me one or two matters which seem to demand a word or two of deliberate notice; and "we may as well have it over and done with"—as the pretty girl said when she was asked to take the day.

One of them is a magazine of the pathology and surgery of the eye, *The Journal of British Ophthalmology*, edited by Jabez Hogg (Churchill). The number on my table is No. 1; and it is full of information, although got up under disadvantages. The "Notes of Some Experiments in Eutropics" are very interesting—to me; and, as communications upon the subject of "spectres" in the eye will not be unwelcome to Dr. Jago and others, I may mention a fact or two. In the first place, I at once recognise in the drawings and descriptions "spectres" similar to those which have annoyed me for a good many years. Mine are obviously portions of blood-vessel highly magnified. A scientific gentleman to whom I once spoke upon the subject—a man of the highest faculties and attainments—told me that in his case the whole reticulation of the retina was sometimes visible. He was a gentleman accustomed to use the microscope. It is perfectly true of these "spectres," as familiar to myself, that they are "affected by the general health," and that in a very bright light they disappear, or nearly disappear. But when the writer of this article says that "they are not visible when reading by artificial light," he does not go far enough. I have never tried to see if my "spectres" appear under the lime light; but the fact is they are not visible unless the light be a diffused light, falling equally upon the eye from all directions. For example, they are not (usually) visible in an omnibus, in a room with one window, or in a room with the blind down. To this I will add that by "squirming" up the eye with the muscle I can do two things: alter the shape of the spectres, and make them go faster. I have also observed that I can make them entirely disappear for a short time in two ways: by keeping the eyeball motionless, and by very rapidly blinking the eyes a great many times. The subject is so interesting that I will add a word or two more. These spectres are not visible to me if an eyeshade be worn, or a cap with a very wide peak. Of course, I made that experiment immediately upon discovering the dissipating effect of a roof. Again: I firmly believe that they are removable by anything that would raise the general health. Twenty years ago they came to me with a bad cold, which affected my eyes after hard reading. Four years ago I entirely missed them for six months. Upon catching cold again they returned, smaller in size and fewer in number; but I think more opaque. So much for the good of science! I warmly recommend *The Journal of British Ophthalmology*.

Now to change the subject. Here is a tract, sent to this Journal, on "The Marriage Laws of England as they Relate to a Deceased Wife's Sister." It is by a "Graduate in Classical and Mathematical Honours, Cambridge, of B. D. standing," and published by Hatchard and Co.; and I am happy to be able to add that it is a well-read, well-reasoned, and temperate pamphlet upon a subject about which it is very difficult indeed to be temperate. There is nothing more irritating than (what Milton calls) the "supercilious hypocrisy of those that love to master their brethren;" and when this is manifested in connection with a subject entirely outside of the pale of civil compulsion, the irritation is assuredly not lessened. We all know, by painful experience, how very slow the Tory mind is to let go a single rag of power. A restriction is the delight of the "supercilious" cad—something that he can have a share in *enforcing* upon others. This makes him, *pro tanto*, a little king, or policeman; and great is the joy with which he wields the truncheon. But that this utterly senseless relic of canon law should be retained is one of the most astounding of modern social phenomena—nearly as astounding as the fact that people should, either on this or any other point, think themselves entitled to speculate on what is best for other people's happiness, and make laws on that basis. For my own part, I cannot discuss the subject with patience. I go off into invective, not to say abuse, directly. The author of this pamphlet however, is a wiser, better fellow, and I wish it a large circulation.

It has once or twice escaped me to call attention to the story "Married Beneath Him" (by the author of "Lost Sir Massingberd"), in *Chamber's Journal*. It is exceedingly good. The author has a gift of epigram which is almost alarming, and is in many respects among the most promising of the new comers.

By-the-by, you may have observed paragraphs of all sorts running wild among the "journals" about the author of "Margaret Denzil," his being connected with the *Cornhill*, and goodness knows what not. The fact is, Mr. Greenwood has written in the *Cornhill* from time to time since its commencement under the late Mr. Thackeray. To Mr. Thackeray, or, for a change, to Mr. Ruskin, his casual papers were, indeed, commonly attributed; and that by critics in one of the very best of the "weeklies." One need not mention names; but if the reader will guess one of the two which are confessedly the best I will not contradict him. But it must be said that the author of "Margaret Denzil" has a sphere in which neither Ruskin nor Thackeray could touch or approach him, the sphere of that province of Dreamland in which the emotions find a world of their own built up through their affinities with the phases of external nature. In that wonderful Border-land of the Actual, that world of double-consciousness in which high-strung or unstrung nerves make ghosts—forget the making—and then walk among them as if they were real, Mr. Greenwood is alone among our prose

writers. Neither Mr. Ruskin nor Mr. Thackeray could have done the nineteenth chapter of "Margaret Denzil," entitled "The End of Half My Life."

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

The past has been but a dull week. In the language of the markets, farces have experienced a depression and melodramas hung heavy upon hand. The demand for French goods is still brisk, on account of the superior quality of the article. Managers active, and the public shy.

At DRURY LANE "Macbeth," and at the HAYMARKET "The Stranger," still run, a fact that must be very pleasing to elderly actors and old playgoers. The ADELPHI, too, offers an entertainment which, to say the least of it, is middle-aged. After the farce of "Doing Banting," "Masks and Faces" is played, and after "Masks and Faces" the irrepressible and insubmergible "Colleen Bawn." There is a rumour of a novelty shortly to be produced, but I fear that the news is too good to be true. The novelty in preparation, which may, perhaps, see the light in the year 1869, is an adaptation of a new French drama.

"The King's Butterfly" is still in the playbills of the LYCEUM, and a new piece is in preparation. At the OLYMPIC, the ST. JAMES'S, and the NEW ROYALTY there has been no change. On Monday, however, we are promised Mr. Burnand's new extravaganza of "Snowdrop."

At ASTLEY'S "Mazeppa," urged on by enormous posters and advertisements of American proportions, still canters on its mild career. One of the advertisements is such a tin foil gem that it is worth reproduction:—

Miss Adah Isaacs Menken, whose graceful and classic beauty, transcendent histrionic power, and heroic Amazonian courage form the Delphic tripod from which the inspiration of her genius throws a new spell even on Byron's "Mazeppa," and who delights and enchains the Old World as she has astounded and enthralled the New, appears in her great impersonation, &c. Is not this beautiful? You see, while she "astounds and enthralled the New World," she *enchains* the Old. How subtle and delicate the distinction! Poor Old World!

The new and original comedietta of "The Wilful Ward" is by no means worthy of its author, Mr. J. P. Wooler. In fact, it is not a comedietta at all, but the broadest of farces, with here and there a slight touch of the comic business of the Christmas pantomime. Sir Peregrine Placid (Mr. H. J. Turner) is the guardian of Miss Rose Lester (Miss Millicent Palmer), who is passionate, charming, violent, and volatile. Sir Peregrine wishes to marry her to Mr. Frederic Lispington (Mr. Belford); but the young lady plights her affections to Sir Peregrine's secretary, Mr. Charles Fairfax (Mr. Collier); *et voilà tout*. The only fun in the farce is in Mr. Lispington's refusal to sacrifice his moustache to the caprice of the wilful ward, upon which he is seized by servants, bound down upon a chair, and compelled to submit to the indignity of having his face lathered with soap-and-water, while the Baronet holds the razor and the Baronet's ward looks on. When Lispington frees himself, he takes up the poker and stands defiantly. All this, as I have said, is very Grimaldian sort of wit; but it pleased the audience, who applauded and laughed heartily. The piece was very well acted.

Miss Herbert is to have the ST. JAMES'S THEATRE. The new management commences upon Boxing Night.

DEATH OF J. R. McCULLOCH, ESQ.

JOHN RAMSAY McCULLOCH, the distinguished political economist, statistician, and head of the national stationery department, died on Friday week. He had been for some time past subject to attacks on the chest of a dangerous tendency, and his last seizure a few days since proved fatal. From its commencement he gradually declined in strength, but retained all his faculties till his last moments.

Mr. McCulloch was born in Wigtonshire, on March 1, 1789, and he was, therefore, in his seventy-sixth year. His father possessed a small freehold estate in that county, and was of the class of small proprietors in the English border counties denominated "statesmen"—cultivators of their own acres. The son received from his maternal grandfather, a Scotch minister, his early education—that is, he was "grounded" in his mother tongue, with some elementary instruction in the dead languages, after the then Scotch fashion. On leaving school Mr. McCulloch was placed in the office of a writer to the Signet, but he did not pursue the profession of the law. He settled in Edinburgh and attended the public classes of the University for two years, but did not graduate or study for any profession. Early in 1817 an accidental communication of Mr. McCulloch to the *Scotsman* (then first established) led to his connection with that journal, and for some time he was the editor. In the following year he commenced a series of contributions to the *Edinburgh Review*, and also gave lectures on political economy. In 1820 Mr. McCulloch quitted Edinburgh for London, continuing his contributions to the *Scotsman* for some years, but contributing also to other periodical works, and giving lectures on political economy. In 1828 he was appointed professor of that science in University College, London; but, the chair being unendowed, the number of students attending his lectures was insufficient for his remuneration, and he resigned the professorship. In 1838 the Whig Government appointed him Controller of the London Stationery Office, at a salary of £1000 per annum, and he continued the head of this department till his death. When he undertook its administration the Stationery Office was an augean stable. The long and habitual waste of paper in the consumption of the public offices and in printing was fabulous. Mr. McCulloch accomplished a large annual saving, far exceeding the cost of the department he presided over. By his stern economy and hatred of "jobs" he, of course, created enemies; but his judicious savings and integrity were undisputed and are matters of record in Parliamentary reports and returns.

Mr. McCulloch's more lasting and meritorious reputation, however, was gained by his literary labours. They were the result of forty years of study and experience. Statesmen had attended his lectures in London, and his contributions to periodical works had been various and diffuse. But he now began to realise his acquirements. In 1837, Mr. Charles Knight published, in two octavo volumes, his "Statistical Account of the British Empire." This valuable work was subsequently republished by Messrs. Longman in successive editions much enlarged. The latter publishers brought out his "Dictionary of Commerce and Commercial Navigation," a standard work, annually reprinted and revised. These two works may be considered his staple productions, and they were reprinted in the United States and translated in several European countries. His miscellaneous works were numerous, and all more or less valuable contributions to political and economical science. In 1828, he edited for Messrs. Longman, in four vols. 8vo, the best edition of Smith's "Wealth of Nations," with a life of the author, an introductory discourse, notes, and supplemental dissertations. In 1853 he published a volume of "Treatises and Essays on Economical Policy," comprising sketches of Quesnay, Adam Smith, and Ricardo. This work was partly a republication of articles contributed by the author to the "Encyclopaedia Britannica;" but all were carefully revised and in part rewritten, some essays appearing for the first time. In the same year appeared his volume on the "Principles of Political Economy," lastly corrected and revised. In 1855 he published his treatise on the "Principles and Practical Influence of Taxation and the Funding System." In 1858 he also published a valuable work on the "Succession to Property vacant by Death," including inquiries into the influence of primogeniture, entails, and compulsory partition upon the public interests."

A CHARRED SKULL AND A FEW BONES were recently found in a limekiln at Bingley; they are supposed to be the remains of a young man, named Seth Whitfield, who lived in the neighbourhood, but who was of indolent habits. It is believed that he had laid himself down near the kiln-mouth to sleep, on the previous night; that he had been set on fire or suffocated, and had rolled or staggered into the kiln.

SOME LABOURERS, in a house at Hatcham, quarrelled over their beer. They made up the difference, however, and two of them fell asleep. The third, a man named Havalon, took up a poker, and, intending to strike one of the sleepers, named Bailey, missed him and struck the other man, Gillespie, inflicting injuries which caused death.



DEMOCRATIC RALLY IN NEW YORK IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ELECTION FOR PRESIDENT



THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION AT NEW YORK.

In writing of the progress of affairs in America the great drawback is that we are compelled to discuss the probabilities of events which have actually taken place, but the details of which have not yet reached us, so that we find ourselves still discussing the signs which make the re-election of President Lincoln probable when the affair has been for some days definitively settled, and he has either ceased to be President or has made such good use of recent Federal successes and sharp electioneering tactics that he has once more been chosen to represent the Northern Republic, to the delight of one section of politicians in America and Mr. Bright in England. Like all the public affairs which have been the result of the present administration in the Northern States, the preparations for the election have been marked by intense excitement and repeated assertions on the part of Mr. Lincoln's opponents that the country was no longer a Republic, but had been placed under an unscrupulous Autocracy, supported by military law. In New York, before one of the largest audiences ever drawn together to the Cooper Institute, the same impressing warning was dinned into the ears of the assembled people by a man whom no one can accuse of "disloyalty," brand as a "Copperhead," or disparage as incompetent to deal with the most important questions in a tone and spirit befitting their gravity. Mr. Wendell Phillips, in a scathing review of the pretensions of both candidates, uttered these memorable words:—"I am an Abolitionist; but I am also a citizen, watchful of Constitutional liberty; and I say if President Lincoln is inaugurated next term on the vote of Tennessee, Louisiana, and Arkansas every citizen is bound to resist him." This man, who speaks so well, and who has spoken so often amid the silent and spellbound attention of delighted multitudes—broken only by bursts of irrepressible admiration—and to whose ear the sound of a hiss must be unfamiliar, was not allowed to express himself in this manner without creating an uproar which may have surprised, but did not subdue him. The people stamped, roared, and hissed for several minutes, while the undismayed orator folded his arms and looked on until it pleased them to be silent. At length the common sense of the auditory got the better of the clamour of the dissentients, and a final salvo of applause told the speaker he might proceed. "Are you willing," he asked, "to sacrifice the Constitutional rights of seventy years in your fondness for an individual? I say these acts (the creation of sham Governments in States held by military force and the imposition of illegal oaths) are acts of despotism. If George B. McClellan, or any other Democrat, enters the presidential chair and follows in these footsteps, woe be to the American Union, and you know it."

A recent letter states:—"The war Christians," Messrs. Cheever and Beecher, preach political sermons every Sunday evening, and inculcate from their pulpits the re-election of Mr. Lincoln. The unfeminine Anna Dickinson lectures on the strategy of General McClellan, and prays that the war may last fifty years if the rebels cannot be sooner exterminated. As the day of election draws near each party attempts fraud, raises scandalous accusations against the other, vilifies, ridicules, misrepresents, and libels its opponents, and affects a horror at unfair practices, which it never feels except when it becomes the victim instead of the perpetrator of the wrong. Outdoor meetings and indoor meetings are everywhere held, at which the speakers employ the most unadorned if not the most naked eloquence, and bespatter the rival candidates with improper epithets. The temper of the people becomes hourly more explosive. In ordinary times they are too thoroughly engrossed in money-making to care much for public affairs. They can endure the grossest invasions of their rights by the military 'jacks in office' of a Government which they can displace by their votes at the legally-appointed time; they can see without any very violent indignation the suppression of newspapers and the arrest and incarceration of suspected and it may be innocent persons; they can wink at the perpetration of the grossest frauds upon the Government; but, in times like these, they cannot endure that their political opponents should tamper with the popular vote, or win the presidential election by unfair means."

A proclamation of General Dix, the military commandant in the New York division, who by one stroke of his pen has annulled the constitutional authority of Governor Seymour and taken it upon himself to protect the freedom of election on the Canadian frontier, which he has no more legal or constitutional right to do than he would have to protect the polling-booths of London or Westminster by files of Federal soldiers, shows how reckless the Administration has become.

According to the latest news, after the close of the banks and the places of business, Wall-street and Broad-street—that classic region where stand the temples of Mammon—were crowded by the devotees of that great divinity, drawn together, not, as usual, by the hope of gain, or to worship at the customary shrine, but by a political principle, to listen to speeches delivered by men of their own standing, experience, and wealth. The denunciation of Mr. Lincoln's conduct both of the war and the Government, and of mismanagement of the national finances, was earnest and emphatic, and the voice of the not remarkably numerous but influential assemblage, composed of the first men of the city, was enthusiastic and unanimous for General McClellan. A counter-meeting of the same class of persons, however, subsequently held, declared as emphatically for Mr. Lincoln.

Interference with the ballot in countries accustomed to that peaceful way of changing a Government is an extremely dangerous experiment; and it is not to be denied that Mr. Lincoln is now venturing upon this experiment. Federal officers have arrested in Baltimore the agents appointed by the State of New York to collect and forward the votes of the New York soldiers in the army of the Potomac on the charge that they were forging balloting papers in the names of soldiers who either had died or had never existed. The agents arrested were put on their trial before a "military commission," which condemned them to imprisonment for life, and refused to admit the plea of want of jurisdiction put forth by Governor Seymour on their behalf. As the ballots so alleged to be forged could have no value until offered to the polls in New York, the alleged offence is no offence at all; and, if the offence had really been committed, it would be an offence, not against the United States, but against the State of New York, cognisable by the New York courts, and punishable by New York law. It was accordingly expected that Mr. Seymour would demand the release of the arrested agents, and that if the Federal Government should refuse to release them he would take ulterior measures of a very summary character. This difficulty is decidedly the most ominous and interesting feature of the political situation at this moment. The Democrats claim that the arbitrary conduct of the Federal Government was provoked by the discovery that a majority of the soldiers' votes from New York had been given to their old commander, General McClellan.

Meanwhile the outdoor demonstrations were waxing more and more intense, and a mob was always collected about the public places, representing elements which have almost ceased in our own country but are still preserved amongst the few traditions of America. One of these scenes is depicted in our Engraving, and might be a tolerable representation, with a slight change of costume, of what took place at our own elections sixty years ago.

Everywhere the great drama is going on—in streets, in railway-cars, in public vehicles, at drinking-bars, concerts, theatres—the fever of the great election consumes every other interest. You go into an hotel to dine, and are scarcely seated at the table where the guests have rushed pell-mell to secure places, when a couple of ballotters make their appearance each bearing a hat to receive preliminary votes for Lincoln or for McClellan. Of course, very few people are inclined to regard this method of voting very seriously, but everyone either throws a ticket into one of the hats or declares in a loud voice the candidate whom he intends to support. When the round of the dining-room is accomplished, the votes are counted and the result made known, amidst the acclamations of one or the other party. The same process is pursued at taverns, underground bars, and beer cellars, where the operation is conducted amidst a storm of cries, shouts, and imprecations, accompanied

with much liquoring up, and the ceremony known as "putting yourself outside suthin," in the midst of a jargon in almost every known language, including that new dialect which belongs exclusively to modern electioneering America and its rowdy representatives.

THE BANQUET TO M. BERRYER.

WE this week publish an Engraving representing the beautiful hall of the Middle Temple on the night of the banquet to M. Berryer, of which we gave a short report in our last Number. Decorated as it was for the occasion, and filled with the most distinguished ornaments of the Bench and Bar of England met to do honour to the famous French advocate, the fine hall had a most imposing and animated appearance. The banquet was a complete success, and this graceful tribute to a man alike eminent for intellect and virtue has been fully and warmly appreciated on the other side of the Channel, Frenchmen of all classes taking the compliment paid to M. Berryer both as a national expression of goodwill and a tribute to the personal merits of one of their most eminent fellow-countrymen. They quite understand that there was no political element mixed up with the demonstration; that in Berryer the English did not welcome the fanatical adherent of the Bourbons or the high Royalist opponent of the Empire. They simply paid homage to a man illustrious for his eloquence and for the fidelity with which he has laboured according to the light that was given him, and who never hesitated to denounce oppression, whether it was practised by his political friends or by his political opponents.

THE UTILISATION OF SEWAGE.

The report of the Main Drainage Committee of the Metropolitan Board of Works, on the application of sewage at Rugby, Croydon, Carlisle, and Edinburgh, has been published. The Committee state in detail their observations at each of the above places, and, in conclusion, say:

The committee consider that the evidence they have collected will prove of assistance in arriving at a sound conclusion in reference to the sewage of London. At Croydon they saw that the operation was successful, though on a limited scale, and were informed that the results were remunerative. At Carlisle, where the only process was employed to prevent decomposition of the sewage, they learnt very curious statements of its collateral advantages. At Edinburgh they witnessed the beneficial result of many years' experience of the profitable application of sewage to sea sand. Your committee were not able to ascertain, during their visits to these several places, the chemical composition of the sewage of any of them, or the precise quantity of sewage applied annually or during a given time; still less did trustworthy experiments appear to have been made as to the quantity which could most advantageously be employed. The same uncertainty prevailed as to the amount of grass cut, or hay made, or cattle fed upon either the sewage land or that adjoining, obviously a most necessary element of comparison. They have consequently given in each case a statement of money payments, very satisfactory as far as they go, but by no means sufficiently accurate for scientific purposes, money value depending on many other considerations besides power of production, such as nearness to markets, proportion of supply to demand, fitness or unfitness for the particular purpose by reason of comparative levels, and so forth. Some uncertainty appears to prevail as to the kind of grass best adapted to sewage land, or whether any other crop may be grown upon it with profit. Your committee, of course, would except from this statement the fifteen acres of land which have been the subject of the experiments of the Royal Commission at Rugby; there every one of these particulars has been most carefully recorded by skilled observers, and many of them have been already published by the commission in their second report.

The sewage question was under the consideration of the Board on Tuesday. A report was submitted by the Main Drainage Committee, recommending the adoption of a scheme proposed by Messrs. Napier and Hope for carrying the sewage an extent of forty-four miles, for the fertilisation of the Maplin Sands, and the project was finally affirmed by a majority of twenty-six to nine. The scheme will require an act of Parliament to carry it through, and thus the whole question will be brought before a Parliamentary Committee.

The Common Council had a special meeting on Saturday last to consider the report of the Coal, Corn, and Finance Committee in reference to the utilisation of the metropolitan sewage. The speeches supported the recommendation of the committee that there should be no haste in dealing with this important question, but that a Royal Commission to inquire into the whole subject should be issued.

AN UNREHEARSED EFFECT.—One night last week, during the performance of "Othello" at the Lyceum, Sheffield, an extraordinary occurrence took place. In the last scene, where Othello smothered Desdemona, and just before the consummation of the deed, a young man named Greenwood, who was seated in the pit, rose in an excited manner, and, having repeated Desdemona's prayer for mercy, declared that he could not remain to witness the perpetration of a murder. The bewildered youth then rushed frantically across the seats and over the heads of the audience towards the door, where his further progress was stopped by the burly form of a police sergeant, whom he threatened to jump upon if he did not allow him to pass. The crowded audience were for a moment taken aback by so unexpected an escapade, but, speedily recovering themselves, gave way to the most boisterous laughter, in which Othello, unable to control his risible faculties, heartily joined. Order was in a short time restored, and the immolation of the fair object of Othello's jealousy and wrath, which had been temporarily interrupted, was duly proceeded with.

A NEW CONFEDERATE CRUISER.—Several days ago it was announced that a steamer named the Laurel had left Liverpool for Madeira, &c., under circumstances of such a suspicious nature as to cause inquiry. It was ultimately ascertained that Captain Semmes and about a hundred men were on board; but this statement was denied by Mr. Lafore, of Liverpool. He wrote a letter to the effect that the Laurel did not take out Captain Semmes, that the number of her crew was not more than that required for a vessel of the Laurel's size, and that she carried out a few passengers—scamen—to replace those who had died of fever at Bermuda and Nassau on board steamers engaged in blockade running. By the arrival at Liverpool of the African mail-steamer Calabar, we learn that the Laurel has been at Madeira, and so has a large screw-steamer named the Sea King, which received a crew on board from the Laurel. Thirty-six of the men, however, refused to join the Sea King and came home in the Calabar. The Sea King has, it is said, been renamed the Shenandoah. Such is one story afloat. Another reports the arrival at Savannah of the Royal Mail steamship Solent, with Captain Semmes on board under the assumed name of Smith.

WORKING-MEN'S CLUBS AND CHEAP DINING-ROOMS.—An important step has been gained in the progress of these movements for the promotion of the comfort and general welfare of working men by the willingness to co-operate wherever practicable which has been deliberately expressed on both sides, and on which some instances are already occupying public attention. The great difficulty which the club movement has to contend with in London is the enormous rents now being obtained for all sorts of property; and as the same difficulty would certainly go far to diminish the profitability of the cheap dining-halls, and as, wherever there is a demand for the one there must be a good sphere for the other, it is to be hoped that the co-operation which has already been partially initiated will be extensively carried out. Last Thursday a meeting was held in St. Peter's School-room, Upper Kennington-lane, S., to inaugurate a club and institute, which, though quite distinct in government and all other particulars, will nevertheless be most profitably and conveniently associated with a branch of the dining-halls as to premises. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, not being able to comply with a request from the Council of the Union that he would preside over a public meeting to promote these objects, has expressed his approval of the movement, and sent a donation of £10 to the funds.

THE LATE EXPLOSION AT ERITH.—The Coroner's inquest on the bodies of some of the persons killed in the gunpowder explosion near Erith was brought to a close on Tuesday, when the jury returned the following verdict:—"We find that the deaths of George Raynor, John York, and Thomas Hubbard were caused by an explosion of gunpowder which originated in one of the barges belonging to John Hall and Son whilst unloading at the jetty of their magazine at Erith; but how that explosion was caused this jury had no evidence to show." Addenda.—From the evidence which has been adduced before this jury, they would respectfully call the attention of her Majesty's Government to the many serious omissions and imperfections of the present Acts of Parliament relating to the gunpowder trade, and would urge upon their attention the following as a few points on which immediate legislation is required:—1st. The quantity of gunpowder stored in any one place, or conveyed in any one barge, wagon, or railway train. 2nd. The construction and situation of magazines; their proximity to populous districts, to river walls, and other sources of danger; and to licensing the same. 3rd. The construction of barges and other vessels for the conveyance of powder, and to the necessity of their having better distinguishing marks. 4th. The shipping and discharging of powder generally. 5th. The importance of Government inspection and supervision of the storing, packing, and conveyance of gunpowder. 6th. The penalties relating to the infringement of all Acts of Parliament bearing upon this subject generally."

FINE ARTS.

THE WINTER EXHIBITION AT THE FRENCH GALLERY.

[SECOND NOTICE.]

BEFORE passing to our review of the landscapes in this gallery, we may observe that we omitted in our last notice to mention—and mention with praise—two clever pictures—"Andalusian Peasants" (28), by Mr. D. W. Deane, and "The Outposts" (204), by Mr. F. Weekes. While repairing errors, we may as well also state that the landscape to which, in our opinion, the prize is due is not, as given last week, No. 42, but No. 49—Mr. Leader's charming bit of brook from Bettws y Coed. A broad shallow stream slips quietly away among grey slabs and boulders to the delicious shade of overhanging boughs, and on to a boss of embowered hill beyond, around the foot of which it wanders, sending up toward the sun a thin wreath of mist which traces its course. Such a scene, painted by such an artist, is full of the rarest poetry. Note how the brown water sleeps in the gloom—how the hills recede—how the sun pours through the green boughs—how the light floods it all with tender lustre! There is no other painter who brings us out to look into the eyes of Nature as Mr. Leader does—grand, solemn, simple Nature in her repose; not showing her under tricky sensational lights which will by-and-by degenerate into mannerisms.

It is curious to contrast with such a glimpse of the truth the pictures of Mr. Linnell, sen. They are pleasing in spite of their mannerisms; but what a pity it is that such an exquisite taste for colour and composition should be marred by faulty figures and an almost inconceivable ignorance of tree forms! An instance of Mr. Linnell's faults will be found in No. 6. In Nos. 12 and 61 will be seen skies painted as few but he can paint them. Another veteran artist whose works are found in this gallery is Mr. Creswick, whose views of "Sloperton" and of "Moore's Residence near Paris" (81 and 82) will not fail to charm. His "Haunt of the Deer" (198) is a larger work, the deer being put in by Mr. Ansdell. There is a nice passage of light and shade on the bank of the brook.

Mr. V. Cole's "Corn-field" (1) is rather dark, and, being hung somewhat high, is not within reach of close examination. It is, however, possible to see there is much that is good in it.

Mr. G. Cole's "Reaper's Repast" (114) is a true transcript of English scenery, from the reaper reclining among the sheaves to the distant spurs of hill, and to the masses of cloud beyond, which overhang them. Mr. Peel shows a similar appreciation of the peculiar beauties of our country; his "English Homestead" (160) is a delicious picture. The brown hill rising in the background and the patches of red among the fern tell us of autumn; the trees are already touched with gold. Nos. 166 and 197 are also very faithful to nature and lovingly painted.

Mr. Davis's pictures are remarkably good. The first is "Warm Weather—Artois" (86), a most vivid realisation of a day of drought in the red, sandy plains, covered with short, scant, dry herbage, amid which lean thistles thrust themselves up defiantly like spears. A thread of rivulet crosses the path, half sucked up by the thirsty earth, but yet enough to be welcome to the bleating flock that straggles up toward the spectator. Of the handling of this and the companion painting—"Morning on the Salaises of Boulogne" (196)—it is impossible to speak too highly. It is the perfection of finish combined with the happiest breadth of effect. In the latter picture the light is marvellous, and the herbage glittering with dew is reality itself.

The "Corn-field" (159), by Miss Blunden, must be counted among the gems of the exhibition. It is almost photographic in that minuteness of rendering which we have hitherto only seen extended on cliff, and sand, and sea. We gladly welcome, therefore, this excursion in a new path, which proves that this talented lady has a wide field before her. We would call especial attention to a hedgerow elm in the middle distance of this picture as an excellent study of tree-form.

Mr. A. Gilbert, the prolific, but also the painstaking, is here in full force. There is no other artist who can so paint the tenderness of moonlight on the broken hillside and sleeping lake as Mr. Gilbert does here in No. 17, and has done in so many other pictures. His view "On the Thames" (4) is a pleasant bit of the old river lying peacefully under a quiet sunset—no glare of glory, but a golden mist—that falls softly on the farmhouse under the trees and spreads away overhead in the pale blue. Two little paintings (unnumbered) are among the most exquisite pictures on the walls. No. 186, containing three small subjects, is very fine too—"A Hazy Morn," with the swaths of mist lifting out of the bosoms of the hills; "A Bright Noon," bright yet not sultry, but full of silver light; and "A Calm Evening," with rosy ridges of hill yet catching the light that has fled from the still lake below—nay, from the topmost branches of the dark plantations by its side.

There are several capital specimens of Mr. A. W. Williams's style—"An Approaching Gale" (2) beating up black over a sea that frets and growls, and lashes the shore in preparation for the coming struggle; "The Bay of Baia" (120), sunny and peaceful, reminding us of the painting of Mr. Roberts; "A Coast Scene" (129), a very clever effect of sky, and altogether a pleasing composition; and a thoroughly satisfying picture of "Summer" (161), with the hay down, under a sky that augurs well for its saving. There are some capital trees, and well painted, in this picture. A view of "Savona, on the Corniche Coast" (18), is Mr. G. E. Hering's most important picture—a very good specimen of his style. Two smaller ones (179, 181) are charming bits of colour. Mr. Hulme is also well represented. "A Scene in Surrey" (34) is carefully and conscientiously realised; but a study of sky in No. 172 is still more remarkable. The manner in which the dark foreground is faintly lit by the fiery canopy of clouds, the sun being far below the horizon, is peculiarly truthful. No. 113 contains a capital study of a tree, which puts to the blush the mannered mopsticks of many so-called landscape-painters. The figures are a little unequal.

Mr. J. D. Harding's picture here is "Shipley Mill" (184), which is painted with considerable force and feeling. Mr. Finnie has two exquisite pictures—"The Daisy Chain" (88) and "Spring" (96)—both remarkable alike for a happy ease of composition and great grace and fidelity in the foliage, where the work is all honest and the effect excellent.

A repetition *in petto* of one of his contributions to the British Institution last year—"Llyn Quayllt" (68)—is Mr. Boddington's sole contribution to this exhibition. The delicacy of execution is remarkable; but the subject could only be done justice to by the larger canvas in which the hill in the middle distance was so finely and so fully treated.

There are two pictures by Mr. Cooke, Nos. 42 and 66. The former is a small but telling sketch in the Lagunes. The latter is the "Riva dei Schiavoni." We need hardly say it is a splendid picture—the green water marvellously painted. We do not remember to have ever seen a picture in which the fulness and abundance of a silent high tide were made to tell their story so plainly.

There yet remain to be mentioned a "Welsh Spring" (200), by Mr. Sidney Percy, who appears to better effect in it because he was under no temptation to use his besetting purple pigment; a "View in Arras" (10), by Mr. Bright, with a vividly real distance, and capital range of low hill in the middle distance, under a half-rainy light; "Comber, Sussex" (64), by Mr. Oakes, a very clever picture, with evidences of truth in it: "A View near Clifden" (101), by Mr. Shadlers; a pair of views, "Spring" and "Autumn" (80, 98), by Mr. Beavis, full of careful observation and earnest work; "A Lane in North Wales" (47), by Mr. Syer, clever, but unequal; "The Barley-field" (156), by Mr. Hargitt, especially good, with a capital bit of stagnant pond in front, and the sheeny grain beyond; "A Common—Showery Weather" (159), by Mr. Walton, with a closely-studied and well rendered sky effect; "The Gipsy's Haunt" (169), by Mr. Shayer, a very meritorious painting; and a capital sketch of some sheep in a woodland path, by Mr. C. J. Lewis, evidently drawn from nature, boldly and effectively put in.

There are two curious pictures by Mr. Tenniswood, which are

unsatisfactory mainly on account of their being pitched in a low tone of colour, as if the artist were painting "under his breath."

Several pictures by Mr. Niemann are exceedingly good, "Lincoln" (146) being most to our taste; and there are some good marine pieces by Koekoek.

The animal-painters are not numerous, but make up by quality for lack of quantity. Two paintings by Mr. T. S. Cooper (171, 183), and a picture of Verboekhoven (15) need only be mentioned as worthy of the reputations of the respective artists. A picture of "Sheep" (187), by Mr. T. G. Cooper, is very good indeed, and shows something more than promise. Mr. Astor Corbould's "Highland Cattle" (112) are spiritedly rendered and full of character.

SUSPECTED RECRUITING FOR THE FEDERAL ARMY.

LATE on Tuesday night, Mr. Kehoe, the superintendent of the Liverpool detective police, received a letter from Mr. George Underwood, proprietor of the Sefton Foundry, in Liverpool, stating that upwards of 180 men and lads had been inveigled from Ashton-under-Lyne, and about thirty more from London, by a Federal recruiting agent, who had intended to get them on board the Great Western, then lying in the Canada Dock and bound for New York. Mr. Underwood added that, suspecting the real object of the expedition, he had warned the men, and that the greater number of those from Ashton had thereupon refused to proceed, and had accepted his (Mr. Underwood's) offer of temporary shelter. Mr. Kehoe sent an officer to make inquiries, and on Wednesday morning the information collected was placed in the hands of the Deputy Town-clerk, Mr. Curwood, who pursued the investigation during the day, with a view to legal proceedings. It appears that placards have been published at Ashton and elsewhere inviting young men to go out to New York, the inducement being permanent employment in a large glass manufacture, at 15s. per week, with food and clothing. The bait was too tempting to be refused by the young men of Ashton, who have been so long without work, and it is said that about 300 of them accepted the offer. When the first batch, numbering about 180 from sixteen to thirty years of age—arrived at the Sefton-street station, at Liverpool, it was dark, and carts were in waiting to carry them to the Canada Dock. Some dispute occurred between the men, who were hungry, and the agent, who promised them that they would find plenty to eat on board the Great Western, and the altercation attracted the attention of Mr. Underwood, and led to his interference.

Inquiries made on Wednesday disclosed only such facts as warrant the belief that the men were intended recruits; and it is doubtful at present whether the agents have brought themselves legally within the range of the Foreign Enlistment Act. About 400 or 500 men, collected from London, Ashton, Liverpool, and some from abroad, were on board the Great Western; and the vessel left the dock for the river, preparatory to sailing for New York. The Ashton men mention the name of a Mr. Shaw who has been active in inducing them to join this glass-making expedition. This gentleman's brother, who is said to have been in communication with some of the London men, has been out to the United States and recently returned; and it is further said that they are both passengers on board the Great Western. One of them is mentioned as the person who paid the fare of the Ashton men by rail to Liverpool.

The men from London were induced to enter into the affair by the appearance of an advertisement in several morning papers directing them to inquire at some place of meeting in Westminster. Upon going there they were met by a man named Stantin or Startin, who offered them fifteen dollars a month, to commence from the day of going on board the steamer, and a suit of clothes "suitable to the climate" upon their arrival. On Monday each of those who had agreed to go received the following letter:—

"Mr. Chester requests Mr. —— to be in readiness for embarkation on Tuesday (to-morrow) morning. Upon production of this letter to Mr. Startin a plain breakfast will be provided for you at King's Coffee-house, corner of Drummond-street and Seymour-street, Euston-square, at ten o'clock punctual.

Nine men left London by an early train, and fifty-eight by a later train on Tuesday, and a great number of them went on board the ship; but several of them, suspecting a deception, managed to get ashore again.

The Great Western has been stopped, and the matter is to be investigated.

GENERAL TOM THUMB.—After an interval of some eight years, a visit has been again paid to our shores by Mr. C. S. Stratton, better known to the world as General Tom Thumb—a title of which he seems so to be proud now as when he first appeared among us, in 1844. The General does not now come alone, for he has taken unto himself a wife, and has been fortunate enough to find a helpmate evidently intended to be his by nature. The little lady who has linked her destiny with that of her renowned husband is something the taller of the two, and possesses a most pleasing expression of countenance, in addition to a figure which may be considered faultless, especially by those who look upon a tendency to full development as no disadvantage. Providence has blessed their union, for with the parents comes a little girl of about a twelvemonth old. This interesting baby, who partakes of the proportions of her parents, is of a very lively disposition, though at present rather shy and disinclined to see too many visitors at once. Another member of the family has yet to be mentioned—the sister of Mrs. Stratton, Miss Minnie Warren, aged eighteen, to whom Dame Nature has even been more sparing in form than to her sister or brother-in-law. The present visit to Europe is entirely one of pleasure, and would appear to have arisen from a desire on the part of the General to renew acquaintance with many of his old friends in England, and also from a laudable wish to gratify his wife's desire to see "the old country" and some portions of the Continent. This wish on the part of Mrs. Stratton probably arises in great part from the fact that she is of English descent, her grandfather having been a native of England, who emigrated to the States. After landing at Liverpool last week, the hotel at which Mr. and Mrs. Stratton were staying was literally besieged by persons anxious to see them; but, in order to prevent any such inconvenience in London, only those who have received invitations will be admitted to an interview. As the question of age will doubtless arise in visitors' minds, it may be mentioned that Mrs. Stratton has seen twenty-two summers, and that her little lord is her senior by seven years.

A PARASITE OF THE EYE.—In a paper addressed to the Academy of Sciences, Dr. Guyon gives an account of several cases of *flaria oculi*, a long, thread-like worm that nestles in the eyes, where it naturally causes troubled vision and other bad symptoms. This worm is frequently met with under the tropics, and especially in Africa. In one of the cases recorded by Dr. Guyon the patient had two flarias, one in each eye, but which it seems were on visiting terms with each other, they being occasionally seen together in the same eye. They could pass from one eye to the other with the greatest rapidity through the cellular tissues of the root of the nose. The operator intrusted with the case made a lateral incision in the conjunctive of the left eye at a time when there was a worm in each, and that of the left one was extracted. A few hours later, when he returned to extract that of the right eye, he found it had passed into the left one, whence he extracted it by making a new incision. These worms were each from three to four centimetres long. Dr. Guyon, at the last sitting of the Academy, produced another flaria, fifteen centimetres in length, and preserved in alcohol. It had been extracted from the eye of a negro, a native of Gabon; though curled up, the whole of its length was not contained in the eye, but lay partly in the adjoining tissues. The extraction is far from easy, the worm being very sensitive, and retiring at the slightest indication of danger; out of six cases observed in America, the operation only succeeded in four. The worm never gets out of itself; for, although it causes a certain irritation, and even induration, accompanied with watering of the eye, it is never carried so far as to cause a solution of continuity affording an exit to the parasite. There is another kind of flaria, called medinensis, because first observed at Medina; but this parasite finds its way out through the teguments. It was known to the ancients, and is mentioned by Agatharchides of Cnidus in his Periplus of the Red Sea. This traveller dourished about the year 150 before the Christian era.

DREADFUL ACCIDENT AT TUNIS.—On the morning of the 3rd inst., a cutter (having on board the following officers—Lieutenant Still, Surgeon Wood; Captain Pritchard, Royal Marine; Midshipmen De Gama, Fielding, and Kemble; Master's Assistant Hadrill, and Assistant Paymaster Stratford, together with four seamen and one marine) left her Majesty's ship Orlando at Tunis on a picnic party, and, while returning at three o'clock in the afternoon, under sail, a sudden squall struck the boat when about a thousand yards from the shore and upset it. Seeing that all hope of assistance was impossible, one of the seamen struck out for the shore, and was the only man saved. He was found the next morning, completely exhausted and in a state of nudity, in an Arab hut, by another cutter of the Orlando, which, in tow of the French frigate Invincible's steam-launch, had been sent in search of the missing boat. Up to the last accounts nothing else had been found but a jacket belonging to Mr. Fielding and a portion of the mast of the boat, notwithstanding the Orlando and gun-boat Tyrian had been searching under steam for the missing bodies. The Orlando is expected here at the end of the week. The sudden calamity has created universal sympathy in Tunis. All the foreign representatives displayed their flags half-mast, and waited upon the English Consul-General to express their condolence and respect for the memory of so many brave officers and men appertaining to her Majesty's naval forces, whose untimely death has deprived their Sovereign and their country of their valuable service. The Commandant Chevalier of his Imperial Majesty's ship Inflexible, senior officer of the French Emperor's ships in those waters, also waited on her Majesty's representative for the same purpose, and the French Consul-General wrote besides a very feeling letter of condolence on the melancholy occasion. His Highness the Bey also conveyed his sympathy and condolence, and gave strict orders to the authorities on the coast to protect any of the bodies of the victims that might be washed ashore, and to report immediately any such occurrence to the Bey's Government. It is a circumstance of melancholy interest to know that Mr. Fielding, one of the unfortunate young officers who perished on this occasion, was one of the few survivors of the lamentable wreck of her Majesty's ship Orpheus on the coast of New Zealand.

OUR FEUILLETON.

THE GRAND DUKE'S NEW CLOTHES.

ONCE upon a time there was a Grand Duke so fond of new clothes that he spent all his money on his toilet. Whenever he reviewed his troops, whenever he went to the theatre or for a ride, it was always for one purpose—to show off his new clothes. Every hour of the day he changed his costume: and, as it is said of a King—"He is in his council chamber," it was said of him—"He is in his dressing-room." The capital was an exceedingly gay city, thanks to the number of foreigners passing through it. But one day there likewise came two rascals who gave themselves out for weavers, and declared they were capable of weaving the most magnificent cloth in the world. Not only were the colours and material of extraordinary beauty, but the garments made from this stuff possessed a marvellous property—they became invisible to every functionary ignorant of the requirements of his office, or to any one of limited understanding.

"Those must, indeed, be invaluable clothes," thought the Grand Duke to himself. "With them I should be enabled to find out the incapable members of my Government, and readily distinguish the competent from the incompetent. Yes, this wondrous cloth is indispensable to me." He then advanced a large sum of money to the two rogues, that they might immediately commence their work.

Indeed, they set up two looms, and made pretence of busying themselves, though in reality there was absolutely nothing on the bobbins. They unceasingly asked for the finest of silk and the purest of gold-thread: but they placed all that in their bag, working till midnight at their empty looms.

"I should like to know how the labour is progressing," said the Grand Duke to himself. But he felt his heart sink on recollecting that persons ignorant or incapable of fulfilling their functions were unable to see this magic cloth. Not that he for a moment doubted his own capacity, yet he judged it best to send some one to make a prior examination. The entire inhabitants of the city were cognisant of the marvellous qualities of the cloth, and all awaited impatiently the knowledge of their neighbours' stupidity.

"I will send my good old Minister to the weavers," thought the Grand Duke; "none can judge better of the merits of their work than he; distinguished as he is by his sense and knowledge of the requirements of the position he fills."

The honest old Minister entered the room in which the two impostors plied their empty looms.

"Egad!" thought he, opening wide his eyes, "I can see nothing."

But this he kept to himself.

The two rogues invited him to draw near, and inquired of him how he found the design and colours. They at the same time pointed to their looms, and the old Minister earnestly fixed his gaze upon them; but he saw nothing, for the simple reason that there was nothing to see.

"Gracious goodness!" thought he, "am I in reality a blockhead? None must have a suspicion of this. Can I really be incapable? I dare not avow that the cloth is invisible to me."

"Well, what think you of it?" said one of the weavers.

"Charming! most charming!" replied the minister, putting on his spectacles. "This design and these colours. . . . Yes, I will tell his Highness that I am extremely satisfied."

"It is fortunate for us," said the two weavers; and they commenced an elaborate explanation of the forms and beauties of this imaginary piece of work. The old minister paid the utmost attention, that he might repeat to the Grand Duke a true and full description of it.

The rogues were continuous in their demands for money, silk, and gold; an enormous quantity was required for this not-to-be-equalled tissue. Of course they pocketed all; the looms remained empty, and still they worked on.

Some time after, the Grand Duke sent another honest functionary to examine the cloth and see if it advanced to a termination. The same thing happened to this new deputy as had happened to the minister; he looked and looked, but saw nothing.

"Is not the tissue admirable?" asked the two impostors, indicating the superb design and gorgeous colours that did not exist.

"And yet, I am not a simpleton," thought the visitor. "Can I be incapable of filling my office? It is strange; but I will be careful how I lose my position." He praised the cloth, and expressed his admiration at the choice and arrangement of the colours.

"It is of incomparable magnificence," said he to his master. And nothing was spoken in the city but this extraordinary cloth.

Finally, the Sovereign himself desired to see it while yet on the loom. Accompanied by a crowd of chosen courtiers, amongst whom were the two honest functionaries, he visited the clever rogues who plied their shuttles continually, though employing neither silk nor gold, nor any kind of thread.

"Is it not indeed magnificent?" said the two honest functionaries. "The design and colours are worthy of your Highness." And they pointed to the empty looms, believing the others might perceive something.

"What the deuce!" thought the Grand Duke. "I can see nothing. This is terrible. Am I, then, a blockhead? Am I incapable of governing? No greater misfortune could occur." Then he cried, suddenly, "It is magnificent! And I here publicly announce my entire satisfaction." He wagged his head with a contented air, and looked at the looms, not daring to tell the truth. His suite did the same, one after the other, but without seeing anything, and repeated, like him, "It is magnificent!" They even advised him to wear garments of this new cloth at the first grand procession.

"It is magnificent!—it is charming!—it is admirable!" exclaimed every mouth; and the satisfaction was general.

The two impostors were decorated, and received the title of Gentlemen Weavers.

The whole night preceding the day of the procession they sat up and worked by the light of numerous tapers. The labour they imposed on themselves was visible to every one. At last they pretended to take the cloth from off the looms, cut through emptiness with large scissors, stitched with threadless needles, after which they proclaimed the raiment to be finished.

The Grand Duke, followed by his aides-de-camp, went to examine it, and the sharpers, raising their arms as though lifting something, said,

"Here are the breeches, here is the doublet, here is the mantle. They are as light as a spider's web. There is no fear of the body being oppressed by their weight; and in this, above all, lies the virtue of the cloth."

"Certainly," replied the Aides-de-Camp; but they saw nothing, since there was nothing to see.

"If his Grand Ducal Highness will condescend to undress," said the rogues, "we will try on him the garments before the pier-glass."

His Highness undressed, and the rogues made believe to hand him different portions of the attire. They placed their hands on his shoulder as though in the act of fastening something; it was the train. The Monarch turned and turned before the glass.

"Jupiter! How well it fits! What an elegant make!" cried all the courtiers. What a design! What colours! What a precious costume!"

The Grand Master of the Ceremonies entered.

"The canopy beneath which your Highness is to take part in the procession awaits you," said he.

"Very well! I am ready," replied the Grand Duke. "It seems to me that I have not a bad appearance!" And he gave one more turn before the glass, and cast another admiring look on the supposed splendour of his raiment.

The chamberlains, whose duty it was to bear the train, went through the performance of raising something from off the floor, then lifted their hands level with their breasts, not wishing it to be thought that they saw nothing.

While the Monarch proudly headed the procession beneath his magnificent canopy, everybody in the street and at the windows cried aloud. "What a superb costume! What a graceful train! What a perfect make!" No person would have known that he saw nothing: had he done so, he would have been declared incapable of holding office. Never before had his grand ducal clothes excited such an amount of admiration.

"But I don't see that he has any clothes on at all," observed a little child.

"Holy Father! only listen to the innocent," said the parent, and the crowd soon whispered amongst themselves the child's remark.

"There is a little child who says that the Grand Duke has no clothes on at all!"

"He has no clothes on at all!" finally shouted the crowd; and the Grand Duke was extremely vexed, for it seemed to him that they were right. He, however, was resolved on the course to follow.

"Under any circumstances, I must go through with it to the end," thought he.

Then he drew himself up more proudly than ever, and the chamberlains continued respectfully to bear the train which did not exist.

WILLIAM THE SILENT.

ONE of the most remarkable personages at the court of the Emperor Charles V. was a very young man with a face like a child, but a figure and bearing far beyond his years, and who, in spite of his youth, exhibited none of the turbulence and thoughtlessness which seem to belong naturally to that period of life. The Emperor, who was known to be one of the most prudent men of the century, paid particular attention to this young man, and listened to his words as to those of an experienced diplomatist or general.

The courtiers, who were much older and far less wise, were much astonished at these marks of confidence on the part of the Emperor to a young man who, strictly speaking, might still have been called a boy; but Charles V. told them that he knew what he was doing, and there was no one whose advice was more to be prized than that of young William of Nassau, Prince of Orange.

When Charles V. was about to give a secret audience to the deputies at the Diet of Augsburg all the courtiers retired, and William of Nassau would have followed their example had he not been desired by the Emperor himself to remain. The young politician was only fourteen years old at the time, and he is said to have astonished the princes and ambassadors who were present by his sagacity and acuteness.

When William of Nassau was but twenty years of age the Emperor commissioned him to convey the Imperial crown to his brother Ferdinand; and he at the same time, in spite of his courtiers, entrusted him with the command of the army of Flanders.

Finally, on the day that the Emperor abdicated to pass the remainder of his life in the convent of St. Just, he appeared for the last time in public leaning on the arm of the Prince of Orange, whom he had just appointed Governor of the provinces of Holland, Zealand, and Utrecht.

But this was the last favour William of Nassau was to receive from monarchs, for Philip II. soon showed that he had inherited none of his father's affection for him. The Low Countries were at this time overrun with Spanish troops, whose presence, now that peace was signed, had become a useless burden. On the proposition of William of Nassau, the States petitioned for their recall. Philip promised to remove them, but did not keep his word; and the only effect the petition had upon him was to inspire him with a violent hatred for William, who had suggested it. When Philip quitted the Low Countries, as he was on the point of going on board his ship he reproached the Prince of Orange publicly with having got up secret intrigues to impede the execution of his projects. And when William submitted to him that the States alone had done everything, the King seized him by the wrist, and shaking him violently, exclaimed,

"No! It was not the States; it was you, you, you!"

Philip had appointed to the government of the Low Countries his sister Margaret of Parma, assisted by Cardinal Granville, who, however, was obliged to retire before the opposition of William and the principal nobles; but all hope was lost when the news arrived that the Cardinal was to be succeeded by the terrible Duke of Alva. One day four hundred gentlemen, dressed with the greatest simplicity, marched two and two along the streets with a petition to Margaret of Parma. As they were passing through the audience-chamber one of her courtiers exclaimed out loud to Margaret,

"It is only a troop of beggars. You must not mind what they say."

The nobles accepted the insult, and took advantage of it to give a popular name to their party. They called themselves the Beggars, and adopted as rallying signs a platter and a wooden spoon suspended from their caps. They dressed in grey cloth, and drank "To the health of the Beggars" when they met one another.

Soon there were Beggars of all kinds—Beggars of the forests—Beggars of the sea, and Beggars of the town united in the struggle against Spain. And William of Nassau marched at the head of a hundred thousand Flemings.

"Farewell Prince without land!" said the Count of Egmont to him.

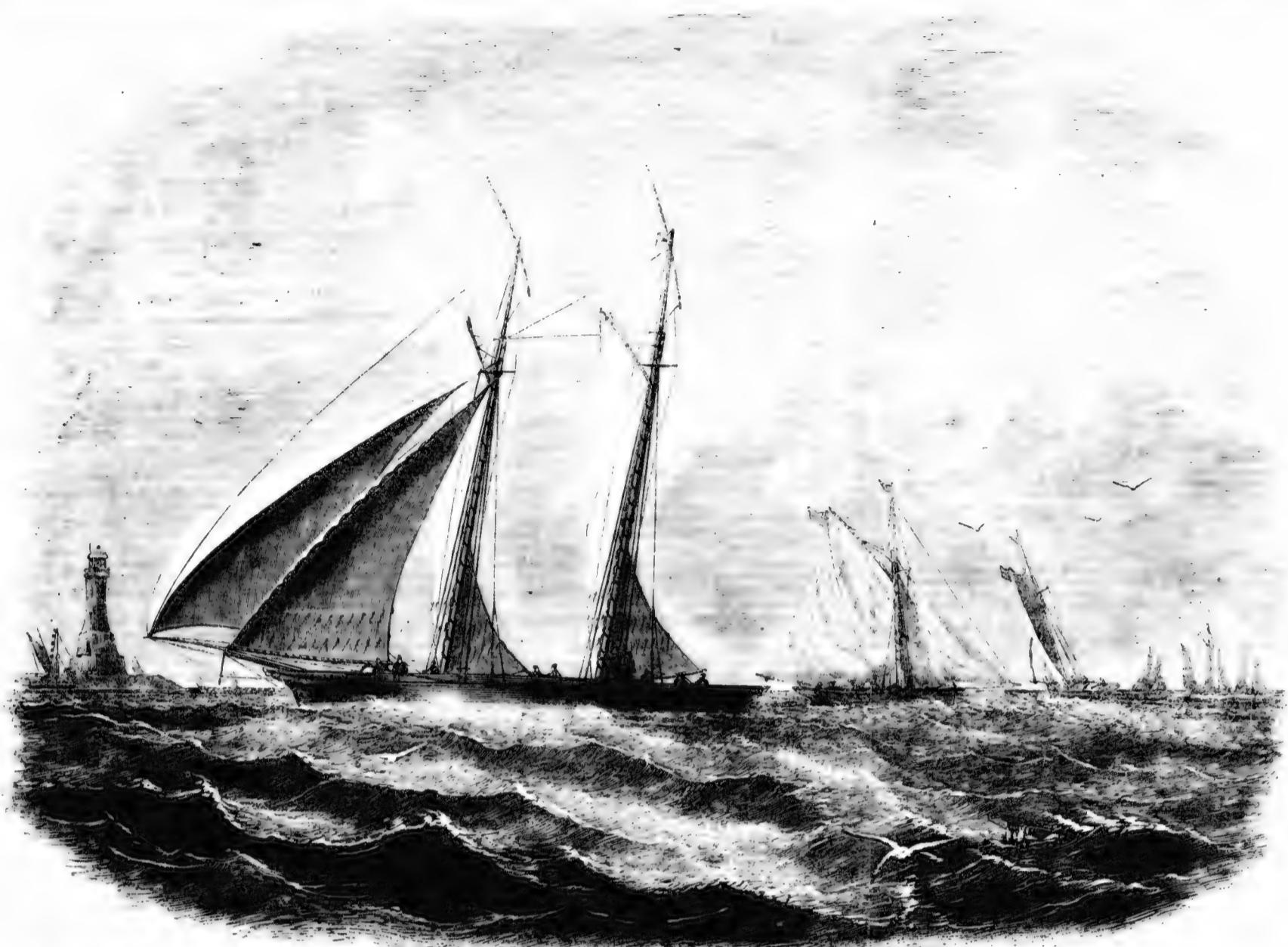
"Farewell Count without a head!" he replied. And both these predictions were verified.

The death of the Count of Egmont has furnished Goethe with a subject of one of his finest dramas. His execution was one of the first exploits of that council of blood instituted by the Duke of Alva. Among other members there was one Vargas, whose ferocity was proverbial; and another, Hessel, who, after sleeping through all the examinations and discussions, used to rub his eyes when he was awakened to give his opinion, and exclaimed, "The scaffold! the scaffold!" This Hessel himself perished "by the gallows;" for afterwards, without any preliminary examination, he was himself hanged on a tree.

The Duke of Alva had boasted that he would smother the Dutch in their own butter (he might have said their blood). In six years he is said to have executed more than eighteen thousand persons. When Granville heard that he had arrested the chief nobles of the Low Countries, he asked whether he had secured "The Silent" (as William of Nassau was now called), and when he was answered in the negative, he exclaimed, "Then he has taken nothing!"

In the long war which the Dutch waged against the Spaniards, William—sometimes victorious, sometimes defeated—was occasionally reduced to terrible straits. On one occasion he would have been taken prisoner before Malines but for his little dog, who scratched his face as he slept, and awakened him in time to save himself. William the Silent carried on the war with the greatest vigour. Thus he did not hesitate to demolish dykes and inundate the country in order to force the Spaniards to raise the siege of Leyden, which was blockaded so strictly that for seven weeks there had not been an ounce of bread in the place. At last Philip offered a reward of twenty-five thousand pounds for William the Silent's head. After receiving several severe but not mortal wounds from intending assassins, he was at last shot by one Gérard, a Frenchman, who pretended to be a Protestant in order to gain access to the Prince. Gérard was arrested by the Prince's subjects (for William the Silent had now been formally proclaimed Stadholder of the Low Countries), and executed, after being subjected to the most cruel tortures, which he bore with so much fortitude that the Dutch declared he must be possessed with an evil spirit, whilst the Spaniards believed that he was inspired by Heaven.

VALENTIA NEW LIFE-BOAT.—The National Life-boat Institution has just forwarded a new life-boat to Valencia, on the coast of Kerry. The whole cost of the establishment, amounting to £500, has been defrayed by a benevolent lady resident in Berkshire. The London and Limerick Steamship Company have readily given the life-boat and carriage a free conveyance as far as Tralee. All the life-boats, numbering twenty-three, on the Irish coast belong to the National Life-boat Institution.



THE PRINCESS OLGA YACHT, RECENTLY PRESENTED TO GENERAL GARIBALDI, WINNING THE FIFTY-GUINEA PRIZE AT PLYMOUTH IN 1852.—(FROM A PICTURE BY A. FOWLES.)

CARIBALDI'S YACHT.

SHORTLY after the visit of General Garibaldi to this country the idea was started in Liverpool of presenting the Italian hero with a yacht, to facilitate intercourse between his island home of Caprera and the mainland, and, at the same time, enable him to

take occasional excursions for the benefit of his health on that element which was his cradle in youth and on which he won his earliest distinction. The project was eagerly caught up, and the friends of the General in London and elsewhere offered to co-operate with his admirers in Liverpool; and the result is that the yacht

Princess Olga, of fifty tons, has been purchased, and dispatched, on the 25th ult., to Caprera, where she has, no doubt, ere this safely arrived. Garibaldi has accepted this appropriate present from his English friends, as is shown by the following letter received a few days ago by Mr. Richardson, treasurer to the



MANOEUVRES PERFORMED BY FRENCH TROOPS IN THE PRESENCE OF THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA, AT NICE.

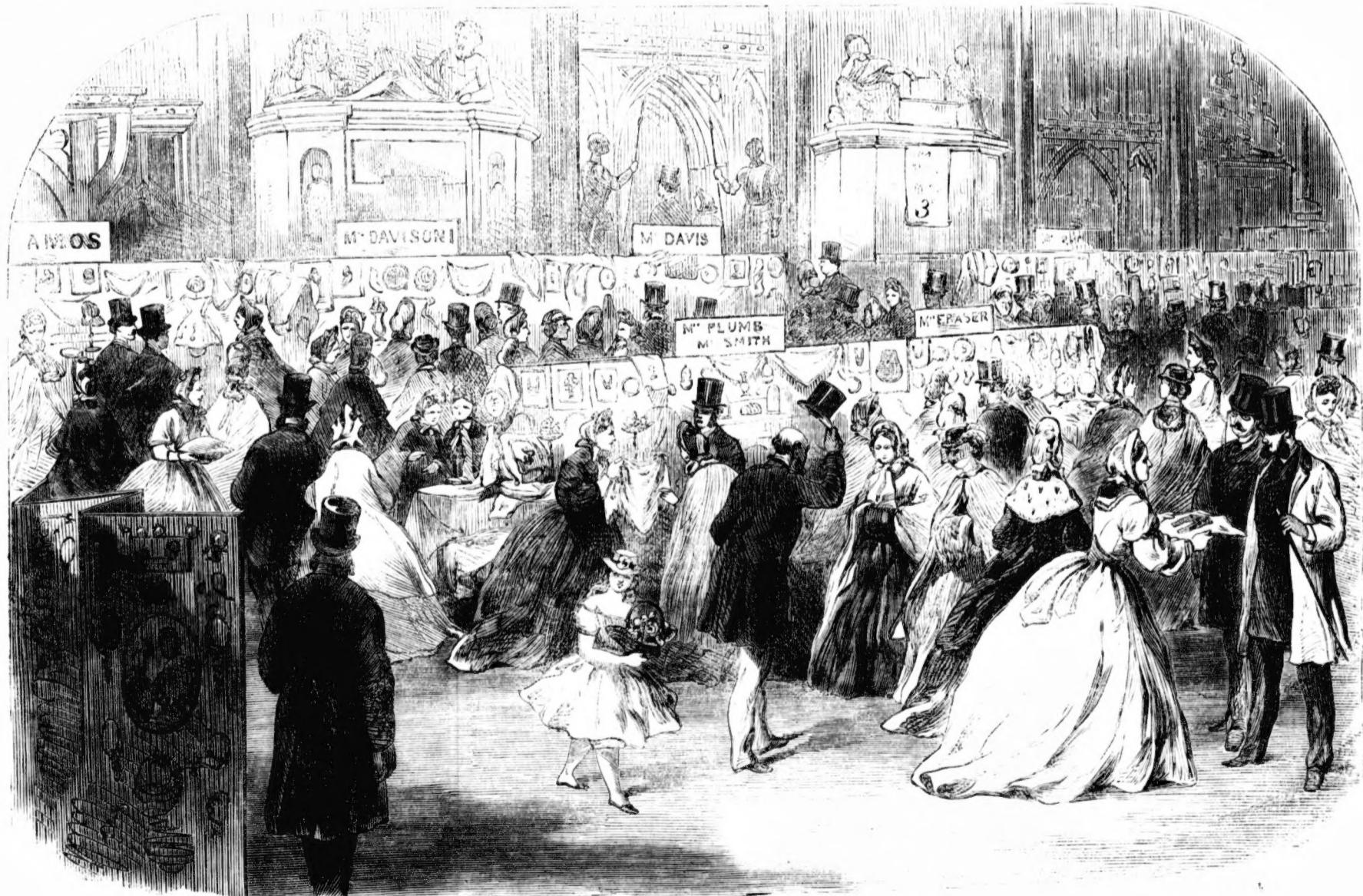


THE CEREMONY OF OPENING SOUTHWARK BRIDGE FREE OF TOLL TO THE PUBLIC.

Garibaldi Yacht Fund, from Colonel Chambers, the English secretary to General Garibaldi:—“Caprera, Nov. 7, 1864. My dear Mr. Richardson,—I have much pleasure in writing, by the General’s directions, to inform you that he accepts the yacht gratefully, and himself and the whole of the household are anxiously expecting her arrival. I will inform you of the arrival of the yacht and give you

all news that I think may interest you in England. The General is looking very well and in excellent spirits, busy, as usual, all day gardening; but, I am sorry to say, as lame as ever, still using his walking-stick. His two grandchildren are with him, and they give him much amusement by their talk and gambols, the eldest a remarkably intelligent lad.”

The Princess Olga was built by Mr. White, of East Cowes, Isle of Wight, for T. Rutherford, Esq., by whom she was designed. She was constructed of the best materials, and her cabins were decorated in the most elegant manner and without regard to expense. She is a very fast craft, and has won many prizes. In compliment to the Royal Thames Yacht Club, of which Mr. Rutherford



BAZAAR AT THE GUILDHALL IN AID OF THE EARLSWOOD ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS.

was a member, the vessel was christened by Lady Adelaide Paget, sister of Lord Alfred Paget, the popular commander of that club. The dimensions of the yacht are as follow:—Length of keel, 63 ft.; stem to sternpost, 68 ft. 6 in.; breadth of beam, 13 ft. 1 in.; draught of water aft, 9 ft.; ditto, forward, 6 ft. 7 in.; burden, builders' measurement, 50 tons.

Our Engraving represents the Princess Olga winning the fifty guinea prize given by the R. W. Yacht Club in 1852, when she had the undermentioned vessels for competitors:—Bianca, C. Webster, Esq.; Julia, Captain Greenland; Coquette, Lord Godolphin; Contest, Colonel Pead (known as Garibaldi's Englishman), who was Vice-Commodore of the R. W. Yacht Club, and whose vessel sailed on two occasions against the present yacht of his heroic leader.

REVIEW OF THE CHASSEURS OF THE GUARD BY THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA AT NICE.

DURING the stay of the Emperor and Empress of Russia at Nice, they were frequently prevented by the inclemency of the weather from partaking in those outdoor amusements which are the peculiar advantage of that delightful retreat.

One of the very earliest occasions on which his Majesty showed himself in public was, perhaps, the most stormy of the whole series of wet days which lasted during his stay.

Rain fell without intermission from eight in the morning. About one the wind veered round to the south and continued to blow with great violence. The rain, however, did not prevent the Emperor of Russia from reviewing the battalion of Foot Chasseurs of the Imperial Guard. When Alexander II. arrived in the Champ-de-Mars the band played the Russian National Hymn. His Majesty wore the uniform of Colonel of the Chasseurs of the Russian Guard. After having examined very attentively the arms and equipments of the French soldiers and conversed with several of the sub-officers, he passed along the front of the battalion. It was remarked with satisfaction that his Majesty bowed low in giving the military salute as he passed before the flag, the eagle of which has been decorated with the Legion of Honour since the Battle of Solferino. The inspection having terminated, Count de Geslin put the battalion through several manœuvres, and the precision with which they were executed and the agility of the soldiers excited the warm approbation of the Czar. After the filing off, the Emperor Alexander called the officers to him and congratulated them on commanding such soldiers, and thanked Count de Geslin, their commander, shaking him at the same time by the hand. The next day his Majesty took a long walk on the road leading to Villa Franca along the shore. He had his children with him, who were delighted to take advantage of a gleam of fine weather, which unfortunately did not last long. The Emperor met two Chasseurs of the Guards, to whom he spoke familiarly for some moments, and complimented them on the way they manœuvred at the review on the previous day. One of the men, long in the service, is said to have replied, "Oh, Sire! that is nothing; if you saw us on the field of battle you would think it a very different thing." The Emperor ordered that the men on guard should be supplied with rations from his own kitchen, and gave a banquet to the whole battalion, which was the more honourable to the soldiers that the Emperor had expressed a wish to make them a present of 5000f., which they declined.

OPENING OF SOUTHWARK BRIDGE TOLL-FREE.

ON Tuesday, the 8th inst., the late Lord Mayor, as the last official act of his term of office, formally, though only temporarily, threw down the barriers on Southwark Bridge, which had so long stood as an impediment in the way of free communication between the south and the north sides of the Thames. The crowded state of London Bridge and the almost totally deserted condition of Southwark Bridge, a passenger or vehicle on which was a phenomena of rare occurrence, suggested the notion to the Corporation of coming to an arrangement with the Southwark Bridge proprietors for opening that structure toll-free to the public, for a time at least; and, accordingly, negotiations were entered into, which resulted in the opening of the bridge for a period of six months, with an option of its ultimate purchase on reasonable terms. The formal opening took place, as our readers are aware, on the 8th inst., but it was nearly as informal as so important a ceremonial could be. A few modest flags decorated the closed and empty bridge on each side; the tollkeepers kept guard at each end, with the grave and saddened aspects of men who were so soon to be relieved of all public function; and the Lord Mayor's never-failing *garde mobile* of ragged little boys was densely massed at each end, ready to take their turn in cheering for and in supporting the civic authority. His Lordship arrived as the clock struck twelve, with his usual punctuality, thereby anticipating the City police, who, it appears, had not looked for such sharp practice. His Lordship was in his state carriage, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, his Chaplain, and swordbearer; and was most cordially recognised by all the bystanders, the *garde mobile* inclusive. A few private carriages, belonging to the members of the Corporation, followed; and the procession was completed by the arrival of the bridge Commissioners, who fell in at the foot of the bridge. A Liliputian band had come over the bridge from the Surrey side, and to their music the cortège proceeded formally to open the bridge. The ordinary tollgates had previously been removed, and barriers, which had been put up merely to be thrown down, were thrown down accordingly; the bridge was passed by the procession at a walking pace, and at a walking pace it returned, the only interruption to its monotonous course being the reading of the following notice, which took place at each end of the bridge:—

NOTICE.

Southwark Bridge is from this day open to the public free of toll for a period of six months, and until further orders. Opened by the chairman and directors of the Southwark Bridge Company, in the presence of the Right Hon. William Lawrence, Lord Mayor, and the chairman and members of the Bridge Estates Committee.

When the procession had left the bridge on the City side the crowd which had gathered round the tollgates made a frantic attempt to run down the money-takers and achieve a free passage over; but the officials, on the other hand, anxious to retain their powers to the last possible moment, made an equally frantic resistance, shouting, "Two o'clock, not until two o'clock," at the very top of their voices. But public opinion was too strong for them, the crowd rushed on to the bridge and achieved a wild stampede into Surrey, whilst the money-takers retired into their cells and tranquilly prepared for the termination of their public existence.

Southwark Bridge, which we trust we may now and henceforth look upon as one of the free highways over the Thames, was begun Sept. 23, 1814, and completed March 26, 1819, having thus taken five years in construction, a long period when compared with the time occupied on similar erections in the present day. It was looked upon as a triumph of its class of architecture, and even now its bold and wide-spanned arches are often admired. It cost £800,000, and never paid a dividend, so that, allowing only simple interest at 5 per cent on that sum, its construction has, in the forty-five years during which the bridge has been opened to the public, entailed a loss to the proprietors of £1,800,000, whilst if that sum were calculated at compound interest the amount would be almost incredible. We understand that the terms upon which the temporary emancipation of the bridge has been effected have given satisfaction to both sides, so that there is every reason to hope that this salutary and public-spirited "time bargain" will result in an arrangement for its permanent opening.

A CONVENTION has been concluded between the British Government and the Porte for the working of the Anglo-Indian telegraph. A Turkish office will be established in Fars, where the land and submarine lines meet. One wire from Constantinople will be exclusively used for Indian messages.

THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT of the Federal public debt represents that the amount outstanding was increased by more than 61,000,000 dollars. in the month of October. The unpaid requisitions are stated at 37,000,000 dollars, and the amount in the treasury at nearly 17,000,000 dollars.

BAZAAR AT GUILDHALL IN AID OF THE EARLSWOOD ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS.

A bazaar for the benefit of the funds of the Earlswood Asylum for Idiots was opened in the Guildhall on Friday, the 11th inst., and attracted a large number of visitors. The stalls, kept by ladies who take an interest in the useful charity at Earlswood, were ranged round the room and down the centre, and displayed the usual array of fancy articles, besides a large number of a more useful class. This was especially the case at the central stall, containing the wares made by the inmates of the asylum.

At four o'clock the chandeliers were lighted, illuminating the hall, as was done for the Lord Mayor's banquet on the 9th. The effect of the lighting up was remarkably fine; the decorations on the walls, the plume of feathers over the dais, the monuments, and the fine proportions of the newly-restored roof were effectively displayed. The chandeliers terminate in large circles, round which small circular pipes are arranged, each sending forth eight jets of flame; high up, near the roof, a series of triple jets blaze, and in the centre of the hall close to the roof tree, is a gas ventilator, which adds considerably to the effect. In the Aldermen's Chamber two transparencies were displayed—one of Garibaldi at Caprera, sitting on a moonlight evening outside his cottage, surrounded by his family, and showing to his friends the certificate of the freedom of the city of London; in the bay the Duke of Sutherland's yacht is seen at anchor, and in the background rise the Sardinian mountains. The other transparency represents the Prince and Princess of Wales landing at Stockholm. The arrangement of the entrance remained as it was on the 9th, being adorned with flowers and guarded by figures in armour.

The bazaar was continued on Saturday. In the afternoon the hall was lighted up, as on the previous day, and the admission being only one shilling, some thousands of people attended. At a little before five p.m. the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress came in, walked round the bazaar, and patronised many of the fair stallholders. Of course, as is always the case on the last day of a bazaar, quantities of things were sold at "alarming sacrifices," and numerous raffles were set on foot. The exertions of the ladies were beyond praise, and in these they were ably seconded by the gentlemen, some of whom might be seen carrying about lucky bags, and others selling tickets for raffles. Mr. Edwin Fox rendered most efficient service as auctioneer, and Mr. Alderman Abbiss appeared to be ubiquitous in his exertions while presiding over raffles in all parts of the hall. The secretaries, Dr. Connolly and Mr. Nicholas, were also untiring.

Mr. Frank Toole prepared a cave (or *cell*), and exhibited a mermaid and other marvels, pursuant to a bill which, conspicuously displayed on the spear of a man in armour, advertised "Lectures on Spiritualism—the Davenport Brothers eclipsed by the Lame Periwinkle and the Dancing Oyster, both tied with ropes by the audience." Into the secrets of this exhibition it is not our province to enter; suffice it to say that Mr. Toole's lectures delighted the hearers, who, amid roars of laughter, cheerfully acknowledged his efforts by contributions in aid of the charity. After having split the sides of several audiences, this gentleman, hammer in hand, mounted the auction pulpit, where the bystanders found it impossible to resist his efforts to raise prices. Who could refuse a bid for a cushion worked by the Princess of China for her august father-in-law, Son of the Moon; a teapot cover made by the foster-brother of the Tycoon of Japan; or a handscreen painted by the Queen of Switzerland, or carved by the Grand Lama of Thibet? Amid Mr. Toole's facetious remarks the bidding went on merrily, the goods going off quickly, and the auction would probably have been kept up till midnight had not dire necessity, in the guise of the officials in charge, compelled the gas to be turned off. While half the lights were still burning, Alderman Abbiss, treasurer to the institution, deposited Mr. Toole, and, ascending the rostrum, thanked the company for their attendance, and for the liberality which had been displayed, saying that he would now conclude the biddings by bidding them all good-night. The results of the bazaar have been very satisfactory, and it is understood that, notwithstanding some heavy expense, a considerable sum will be realised for the institution, which stands much in need of increased support. This is evident from the fact that at each half-yearly election the applicants number from 160 to 180, and that usually but thirty of these can be admitted.

The manifest benefit which the institution affords to the 360 inmates now at Earlswood excites a desire that every one of deficient intellect to be found in the kingdom might receive similar advantages. We hope the committee may ere long be enabled to accommodate and maintain a larger number, as a first step to which they desire to clear off a debt incurred for the erection of buildings. Of this a sum of about £9000 remains due, and contributions to the amount of £7500 have already been promised towards discharging it. The remaining £1500 ought not to be long wanted, and something additional would be very acceptable, if only for the erection of farm buildings, which are much needed. It is a pity that such an establishment should not be speedily placed on an efficient footing in every respect.

AN EXAMPLE TO ROME.—In a commune of the district of Ismail (Moldo-Wallachia) some priests, belonging to a sect called the Lipovans, had abducted the daughter of a Jew, named Herczko Bercowitz. The unfortunate father, after vain efforts to obtain her restoration, repaired on foot to Bucharest, and asked for justice of the Minister of the Interior. The latter at once wrote as follows to the Prefect of Ismail:—"Paternal authority is sacred in the eye of the law, religions, and nationalities. I am astonished that in the position conferred on you by the law you should have been able to remain indifferent to such a scandalous act. Are you not aware that in Roumania, conformable with the traditions of our fathers, liberty of worship has always been respected? I cannot understand that, under the pretext of proselytism, anyone should have dared to abstract a child from the authority of its parents." The Minister's letter is terminated by an order to restore the child to its parent, and to institute a prosecution against the authors of an unpardonable outrage.

THE MURDER IN PLAISTOW MARSHES.—Köhl, the Dutchman, who is accused of the murder in the PLAISTOW MARSHES, underwent another examination before the magistrates, at Stratford, on Saturday last. The evidence adduced on that occasion tended to draw the suspicion against him closer than it was before. Some lodgers in Köhl's house state that they saw him come home about half-past one o'clock—about the hour Köhl says he was with the deceased in the neighbourhood of the docks; that his clothes were then covered with mud, and that, in the course of the evening, he broke open the boxes of the missing man, and said they were empty. A chopper has also been found, which the prisoner had borrowed a day or two before the murder, into which a new handle had been put, the old handle having since been found near the spot where the crime was committed. The police are believed to have likewise discovered where the clothes and other property of the deceased have been pledged. The prisoner was remanded. The police have acquired some most important particulars since Monday last. On that day, at a distance of about 17 ft. from the spot where the body of the murdered man was discovered, a large clasp knife was found, and on inquiry the police learnt the important fact that the knife was the prisoner Köhl's, and had been seen in his possession so late as the Sunday after the murdered man was missing. They have also learnt that on Sunday evening he desired to be called early on the following morning; and they have reasons for believing that he rose and went out before daylight and returned home by about breakfast time. The finding of this knife therefore connects the prisoner still more with the crime; and the fact of its being in his possession so long after the time when the man was missed, taken in connection with this early and secret journey, has led to the opinion that the mutilation of the body was not effected until Monday, and was the result of an afterthought. That the head was not severed from the body at the time of the murder is proved by the severed flesh-cuttings being of more recent date than the other mutilations, and it is not improbable that the murderer was induced to visit the scene of the crime in order to effect this mutilation in consequence of the inquiries which were constantly being made about the deceased. The authorities of Scotland-yard, in reply to a message which they a few days since transmitted to the police authorities of Hamburg, have learnt that the description given of the deceased has led to the identification of the body as that of Theodore Christian Fahrhop, a clerk in the firm of Messrs. Neumann and Co., of that city, and who left there for England about six weeks since. In the vessel in which deceased came to England Köhl also came, and it is believed that the two first made each other's acquaintance on board. Köhl had gone to Hamburg, he had stated, to get some property to which he was entitled; but it would appear that his journey was a fruitless one, as he was shortly after his return borrowing money of his wife's relatives. The deceased man signed his proper name on board the vessel, but it is remarked that the prisoner signed a name very different from the one which he now gives.

THE OPERAS.

"Faust" and "La Traviata" are still given alternately at Her Majesty's Theatre. Mdme. Kenneth, in making her first appearance in the latter work, has obtained a certain amount of success, and has given hopes that she will be still more successful in parts more especially suited to her than that of Violetta appears to be. Mr. Santley, who is unfortunately about to leave England for Barcelona, has been performing the character of Germont during the past week. With Mr. Santley we shall lose our best English singer; and to the uninitiated it seems strange that, when two rival English Operas have just been started in London, the most celebrated of our English vocalists should be called away to a second-rate city in Spain.

At Covent Garden "Helvellyn" is still the chief attraction, or at least the work that is put forward as such. The general heaviness and—to a listener unprovided with a book—obscurity of "Helvellyn" may be accounted for by the nature of the subject. The libretto, in a literary point of view, is undoubtedly superior, not only to the general run of librettos, but to all that we can think of, with the exception of a few others by the same author. It is not suited, however, for operatic treatment, and people who do not care to be constantly referring to the book of the words are so wearied by the difficulties of the plot that they have no patience left for the music, which in this case requires a good deal of patience, for it is not lively, and it lasts four hours.

The truth is, the subject of an opera, as numerous experiments have shown, should be striking, simple, and so susceptible of dramatic treatment that the story would be intelligible if told only by means of pantomime. If not wonderfully striking and simple, an opera story, like a stage joke, had better be old than new, or it will not be understood. It should be remembered that at English opera-houses, as a rule, no one hears a word that is sung; and this rule holds good, to a certain extent, everywhere out of Italy and away from the Italian stage. All explanations, narratives, references to what took place fifteen long years ago, and so on, should, as much as possible, be avoided in operas. Even the opening "exposition," which so few dramatists know how to dispense with, ought, whenever possible, to be dispensed with. In "Don Giovanni" we come to the drama itself at once, without any prefatory matter whatever. So also in "La Favorita," in which the action of the piece commences with the rising of the curtain. So also in all the operas which are founded on ballets or on stories that have been taken as subjects for ballets; for in a ballet or pantomime the story must be acted before us. We understand it, because we see it; and where words are added, even if those words are sung, we understand it none the less. Accordingly, it is an excellent rule, in choosing a subject for an opera, to take one that has already served as a subject for a ballet; and it may be added that the most successful opera-books of all are those founded on ballet subjects, in which the interest is centred in the heroine. "Don Juan" is a ballet subject, and the whole story may be told in pantomime as easily as that of "Punch." Indeed, the legend of "Don Juan" has been treated in every form since it was first represented as a puppet-show piece—as a drama by Tirso de Molina; as a comedy by Molière, and afterwards (with the supernatural part made natural!) by Goldoni; as a ballet by some unknown ballet-master, and by Glück, who set the action and dances to music, which in the present day it would be most interesting to hear; and, finally, as an opera, which is now the most ancient that is represented, and which, nevertheless, taking one year and one country with another, is played more often in the opera-houses of Europe than any other work. Speaking of "Don Juan," we may mention that it is now about to be produced at Her Majesty's Theatre.

As to the general prospects of our two operas, they are said, in both cases, to be favourable enough. We hope so, not only for the sake of the directors and managers, and of all the singers and musicians engaged, but also for that of our English composers, many of whom have never had a hearing, but who, if two English operatic theatres existed together for any length of time, could not fail to have an opportunity of getting their works represented, or, at least, tried with a view to representation. The difficulties which stand in the way of English composers are such as those of no other country have to encounter. To begin with, it is next to impossible for a young composer to get a libretto to work upon. Managers will have nothing to say to him; indeed, it is only now and then that a theatre is open at which English operas are played. Few authors, we should think, can feel inclined to write opera-books merely on speculation, which, in other countries, where a fixed proportion of the receipts is set apart at every theatre for authorship, is not the case. In England the task of furnishing a composer with his libretto falls, almost invariably, upon a music-publisher, who has enough confidence in the composer's talent to take the chance of his work turning out successful. The composers, as a rule, apply to the music-publishers; the music-publishers apply to the managers; and if there is only one manager of an English operatic theatre, and he has a dozen operas offered to him, the only task imposed upon him is that of choosing the one that suits him best. Instead of paying for the right of representing the work honoured by his selection, he considers that he is doing a service to the composer and publisher (as, under the circumstances, he really is) by representing it at all; and some operatic managers have even maintained that the publisher, in consideration of the profit he may expect to derive from the sale of the music, ought to bear a portion of the expense incurred in producing it.

Mr. Bunn, at Drury Lane, used to manufacture his own opera-books and consume them on the premises (in "blazes of triumph" and otherwise); and to a composer disposed to work with him he could, by way of inducement, offer the certainty of a stage representation. Mr. Harrison, too, when he was at Covent Garden, paid a sum of money, on one or more occasions, to our most popular composer, in order to secure his immediate services, and without reference to any agreement he might make with his publisher. Nevertheless, as a rule, our operatic managers, whether acting individually or in companies, do nothing directly to encourage the production of operas; and the composer of the music, as well as the librettist, must look for his pecuniary reward to the music-publisher.

If this state of things suits all parties concerned, of course no one need complain. But the composer of ability who has yet to make his name certainly suffers by it. It is more difficult for him to get a stage-hearing in England than in any other country, where a large amount of public patronage is bestowed upon the opera; and the road through the music-publishers' to the managers' is not an easy or a natural one. If two national operas could be kept going in London half the year (in Paris there are three open nearly all the year round) the relations between music-publisher, composer, and manager would soon be altered. The music-publishers would, after a time, have no more operas on hand waiting for production, and the managers, obliged to furnish the public with a constant supply of novelties, would have to make application to the composers and to propose terms to them. As long, however, as music-publishers offer them the right of representing operas for nothing, managers cannot be expected to pay; and as long as music publishers have operas on hand they will be glad to have them advertised in the most effective manner possible without its costing them anything. Indeed, our music-publishers are so enterprising in this respect that one of them not long since took a theatre and engaged a first-class company for the express purpose of making known in an English form the music of a popular foreign opera, of which he had secured the copyright.

THE STEAMER CALEDONIAN has brought into the Clyde the survivors of the crew of the brig Ayrshire Lass, which was thrown on her beam ends on her passage from Miramichi, and though she afterwards righted she remained waterlogged; and the surviving crew, three in number, subsisted for seventeen days on a bag of biscuit soaked in sea water, and a dog. They were totally destitute of food when the Caledonian came to their rescue.

THE SOCIETY OF SCIENCES, Agriculture, and Belles-Lettres of the Tarn-et-Garonne has offered a gold medal of 300f. for the best piece of poetry—poem, ode, or stanzas—on Meyerbeer.

